



COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

Environment Strategy 2010-2018 Review
ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS



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Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

The Colac Otway Shire proudly acknowledges the Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples as the traditional custodians of the Colac Otway Region. We acknowledge that the Colac Otway Shire is located and conducts business upon lands of the Gulidjan and Gadubanud people.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their unique cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship to their traditional lands, which continue to be important to them today and into the future.



Executive Summary & Focus Areas

The aim of the Colac Otway Shire Environment Strategy 2010-2018 was to protect and enhance the environment, promote sustainable use of natural resources, strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders and build community capacity through environmental education and awareness raising programs.

The Strategy set 41 targets under four areas:

- Council Managed Land



- Planning and Regulation



- Physical Works and General Services



- Education and Awareness Raising Programs



The Plan focused on targets that Council could control and influence, however we have been proactive in the area of advocacy and facilitation and this review will also highlight achievements in this area. The implementation of these targets was achieved through the development of biannual Action Plans.





The Strategy has the sunset year of 2018, however we continue to operate under the guidance of the Strategy until a new strategy has been prepared and within this document we have included all actions and achievements up until September 2021.

In the 11 years since the Plan was adopted, Colac Otway Shire has become a leader in Environmental Management and has made significant sustainable improvements to our day-to-day business activity to reduce our environmental footprint on our planet. Many high priority projects have been fully delivered, some projects have made progress towards the completion of targets, and several more are no longer relevant. Of the 41 targets within the Strategy 34 have been progressed under the term of the Strategy. Appendix 1 outlines each Target and its status.

This highlights, challenges and opportunities report will shape how we deliver the new Environment Strategy along with guidance from the new Council Plan, new Council Strategy and community consultation.

Status Summary of 41 Targets

Complete: 12 Targets

Target has been fully achieved

In progress: 17 Targets

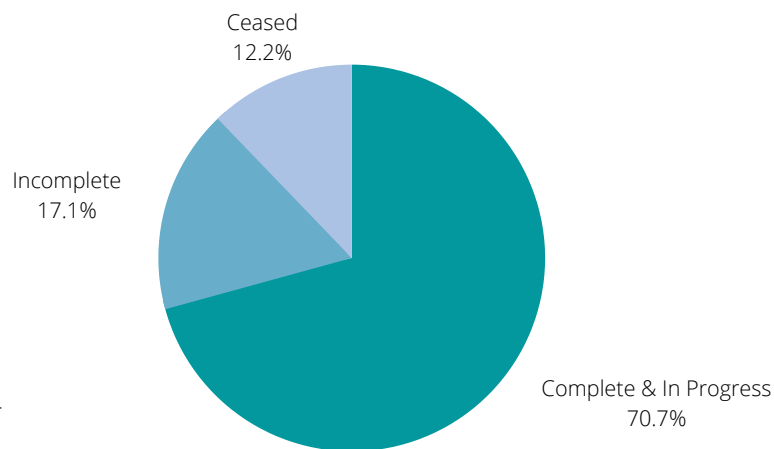
Significant progress has been made towards achieving the desired outcomes of the target and COS will continue to work towards its completion

Incomplete: 7 Targets

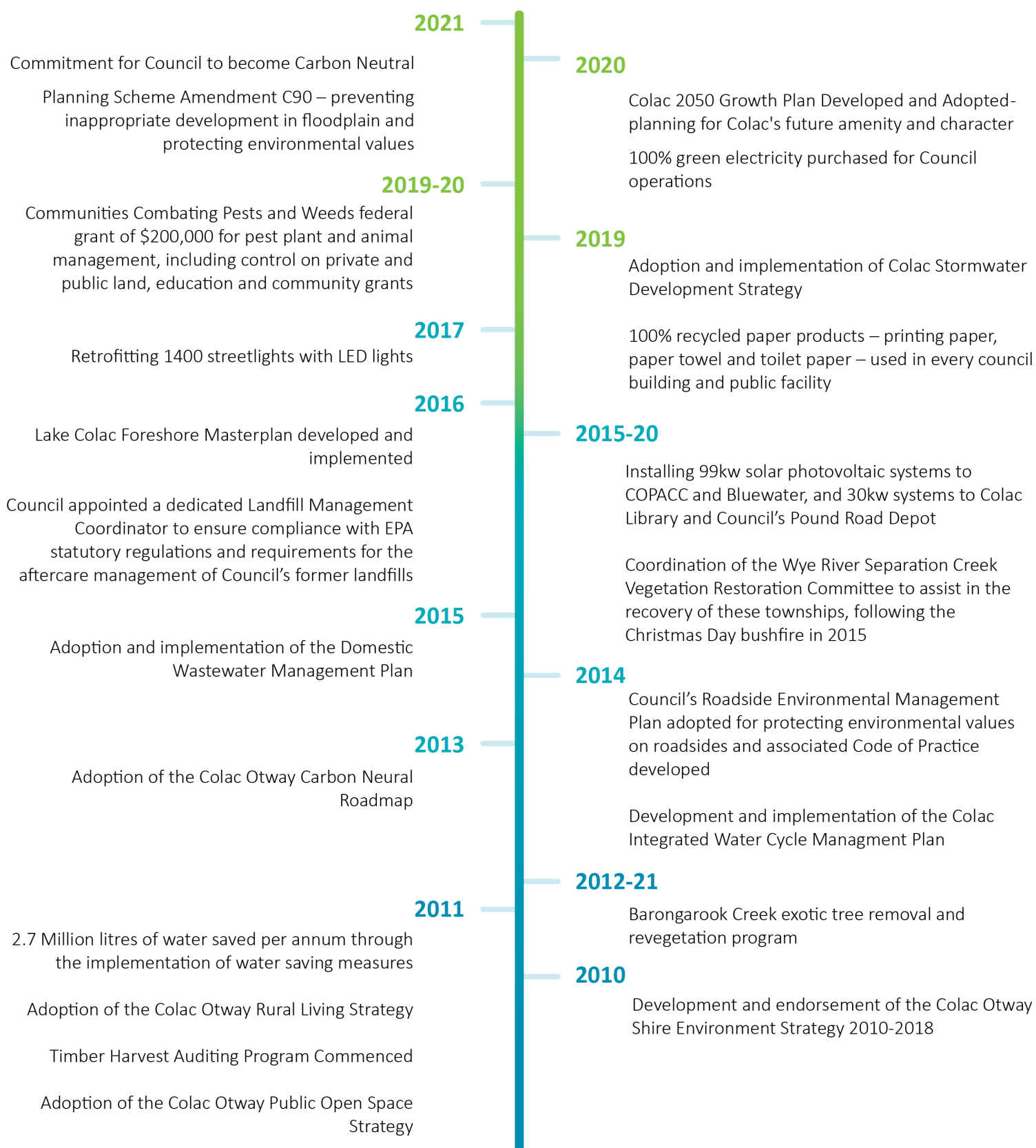
Work was not undertaken towards achievement of the target

Ceased due to a Change in Circumstances: 5 Targets

Target was initiated but not completed due to an external program or organisation ceasing, resourcing and/or funding constraints, or the target was no longer considered relevant



Timeline of Achievements & Highlights





Council Managed Land

Colac Otway Shire Council is responsible for managing 1,600 kilometres of road reserves, 485 freehold parcels of land and 59 Crown land parcels. Colac Otway Shire has significant responsibilities to protect, enhance and properly manage these land parcels and roadsides for their conservation and landscape values while maintaining their functional roles.

Over the last 11 years, Colac Otway Shire has worked successfully with staff, external contractors, other government agencies and landowners to achieve a balance between conservation of biodiversity values and the maintenance of road function and community safety.

Major Achievements

- Communities Combating Pests and Weeds federal grant of \$200,000 for pest plant and weed management, including control, education and community grants
- Over 75,000 native plants planted on Council-managed land
- Weed control undertaken on 1000kms of roads and 220ha of Council managed land
- Control of noxious, environmental and emerging weeds
- Implementation of the Colac Otway Shire Operational Weed Management Policy 2020, which includes a treatment exemption register and a public notification process
- Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan Developed and implemented
- Barongarook Creek exotic tree removal and revegetation program (2012-2021)
- Weed management works in 2018 at four legacy landfill sites to protect high conservation value vegetation on site as part of ongoing rehabilitation works
- 53 tonnes of Carp removed from Lake Colac, Barongarook Creek and Deans Creek and carp barrier installation at the mouths of Barongarook and Deans Creeks in 2016 when Lake Colac dried out, to improve the water quality





Council Managed Land



- Coordination by Council of the Wye River/Separation Creek Vegetation Restoration Committee to assist in the recovery of these townships following the Christmas Day bushfire in 2015
- Development of the Draft Colac Urban Forest Strategy in 2015 aiming to reduce the heat island effect by increasing street tree plantings
- Coordination of Council's Weed Consultative Committee as a collaborative forum for Council, agency staff and Landcare representatives to set strategic priorities for weed management across the region
- Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan 2014 (CREMP) adopted for protecting environmental values on roadsides, in alignment with the roadside conservation status mapping. The CREMP provides guidelines for contract documents and outlines work methods and responsibilities required of all staff and contractors undertaking work on roadsides. A Code of Practice was then developed from this document
- Management Prescriptions developed for all Council managed roadsides to ensure environmental values are protected from threats such as weed invasion, herbicide spraying and road maintenance activities.
- 271kms of very high, 229kms of high conservation, 362kms of medium conservation, 769kms of low conservation mapped and integrated into a GIS layer for use by all Council staff for planning and development of programs.



Council Managed Land

- Education signage designed and installed on both roadsides with significant roadside vegetation and weed hotspots
- Detailed Environmental Management Plans developed for Very High Conservation Roadsides including Poornet Station Road and Cressy Shelford Road
- Detailed Land Management Plans developed for eight high conservation reserves including Beeac Grassland, Barongarook Conservation Reserve and Heathfield Estate, Apollo Bay
- Development of a Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan 2013. This Plan facilitated funding of over \$100,000 to map and treat priority weeds and undertake rabbit control
- Adoption of Council's Public Open Space Strategy in 2011.
- Noxious weed control of the seaweed species Undaria in the Apollo Bay Harbour in partnership with DELWP.

Highlights



over 75,000 native plants
planted as part of revegetation programs

\$200,000 grant administered
for pest plant and weed management



1600 kms of road reserve
treated in annual weed control programs



Council's Public Open Space Strategy 2011 adopted



Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan
developed, adopted & implemented



53,000 kg of Carp removed
from Lake Colac

Significant roadside vegetation
and weed signage installed

Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan (CREMP) adopted

Barongarook Creek Exotic Tree Removal & Revegetation

CASE STUDY



Barongarook Creek feeds into Lake Colac and is a unique natural asset. Since 2012 the lower reaches of the creek have been completely transformed. This work was done to improve the health of the creek and the riparian corridor, as well as to enhance the amenity of this popular area, close to the Botanic Gardens, Lake Foreshore and the Bird Reserve. The multi-staged project involved the removal of over 120 large exotic trees, such as Willow, Poplar and Elm, which were causing significant erosion and waterway health issues, and preventing the establishment of native plants. These weeds were then replaced with over 8000 native trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. The restoration has connected the main street of Colac to Lake Colac, through pathways, bridges and interpretive signage. These works have led to a greater volume and quality of water reaching Lake Colac, as well as improvements in habitat and amenity values.

In September 2016, significant floods occurred in Colac, destroying some of the plantings and braking the banks of Barongarook Creek. The affected areas have now been revegetated with an appropriate mix of native plants, which have been thriving, and which will ultimately create a lesser maintenance burden along the creek corridor. In 2019 the pathways from the township of Colac to the Barongarook Creek mouth were widened so the area can be accessed by a wider range of users, including people with disabilities and bike riders. Revegetation works have been undertaken incorporating engagement with local schools, community groups and partnership organisations.



Before



During



After

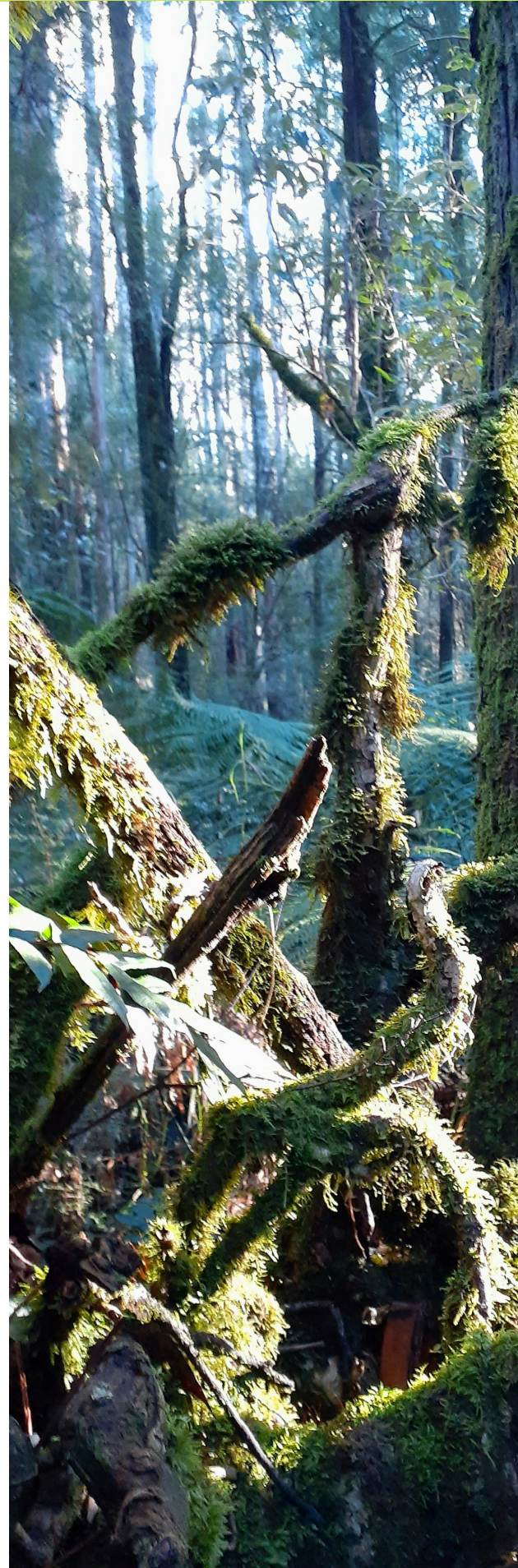


Planning & Regulation

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* gives Local Governments the statutory responsibility to enforce, regulate and influence environmental management on private land. We are always striving to improve planning and assessment processes to support long-term responses to climate change and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Major Achievements

- Development of the Birregurra Flood and Drainage Strategy 2021, which is currently being adopted through Amendment C116colac and which seeks to introduce new, and amend existing, planning controls that will improve the management of flood events in Birregurra
- In 2021 Council, with the Barwon South West Waste & Resource Recovery Group, completed risk assessments for seven of its smaller, former landfills that will guide the development of aftercare management plans and provide a uniform, post closure landfill management approach across the Shire.
- Planning Scheme Amendment C90 adopted in 2020 introduced tighter planning controls over the land in the Deans Creek and Barongarook Creek catchments in Colac. The new controls will prevent inappropriate development from occurring in the floodways and also facilitate the continued use of the floodways as stream habitats and wildlife corridors.
- Incorporation of projected climate change inundation mapping into Colac Stormwater Development Strategy 2019 and the 2050 Growth Plan.
- Adoption of the Colac 2050 Growth Plan via Amendment C97 which revises Colac's urban boundaries, seeks to improve overall urban structure and connectivity, and to create green corridors.
- Council's Municipal Strategic Statement reviewed to include additional requirements to protect environmental values in the Shire.
- In 2019 Council obtained a state government grant to complete a Functional Design for the upgrade of the Irrewillipe Road Retarding Basin.





Planning & Regulation

- In 2016 Council appointed a dedicated Landfill Management Coordinator to ensure that Council complies with EPA statutory regulations and requirements for the aftercare management of Council's former landfill sites.
- Roadside Conservation Status, Ecological Vegetation Communities (both current and modelled 1750) and aerial photographs captured utilising new digital technologies and referred to in Council planning and operations - e.g. land use planning assessments, road maintenance, road upgrades and grazing permits.
- Land Management Plans endorsed as 173 Agreements (on title) with mandatory 5 year reporting for all developments in Rural Conservation Zones.
- Biodiversity offset sites provided within our Shire to compensate for native vegetation removal.
- Adoption and implementation of the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) in 2015 to assist with the management of off-site disposal of effluent where land is not connected to a reticulated sewerage system.
- 419 onsite wastewater treatment systems audited in accordance with the DWMP
- 86 Timber Harvesting Plans independently audited in accordance with the Code of Practice for Timber Production 2014.
- Development and implementation of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan for Colac aimed at reducing the risk of urban flooding and facilitating approximately 300 residential lots in Colac/Elliminyt through the provision of functioning stormwater treatment systems.
- 610 Timber Harvesting Plans on private land reviewed.





Planning & Regulation

- Adoption of a new Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO3) in the township of Birregurra to protect existing large trees within the township in 2014.
- All roadside burns have ecological checks undertaken in partnership with the CFA and DELWP.
- Development of the Environmental Sustainability Policy 2012, which aims to provide clear direction for Council to incorporate environmental sustainability into all elements of its business.
- Adoption of the Colac Otway Rural Living Strategy 2011 and implementation of recommendations into the Planning Scheme through Amendment C69. The Strategy aims to protect productive agricultural land from urban encroachment.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Colac Otway Public Open Space Strategy (2011) through Amendment C75.
- Council developed a regular environmental auditing program for its two largest, former landfills at Alvie and Bruce Street Colac.

Highlights



86 Timber Harvesting Plans independently audited

419 on-site wastewater treatment systems audited



Colac Otway Public Open Space Strategy 2011 adopted

Colac Stormwater Development Strategy 2019 adopted



All roadside burns have ecological checks

Environmental Sustainability Policy adopted 2012

CASE STUDY

Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West



The Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West project was a collaboration between 10 Councils in the Barwon South West region and a range of agency partners, including Catchment Management Authorities and water authorities.

The project began in 2012 with the aim of helping communities throughout the region to understand what risks and opportunities might be presented by future extreme weather events and a changing climate. Another significant aim was to build municipal preparedness to extreme climate events through a wide range of adaptation planning and embedding projects, and mitigation initiatives.



CASE STUDY

Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West

The project was funded by the state government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, with further contributions from each Council and partner. The collaborative and cross-organisational approach adopted through the project enabled the development of an extremely robust network across the region focussing on climate adaptive projects, and was able to leverage over \$2 million in government funding.

An extremely wide range of projects was undertaken through the project, focusing on the dual objectives of enhancing organisational planning and embedding, and encouraging community awareness and resilience (please see the project timeline below for an outline of the substantive projects). Particular project highlights included:

- The development of a locally focussed Climate Adaptation Plan for each participating Council to provide strategic direction to address the challenges of a changing climate, and organisational embedding training of the principles in each plan
- The development of a South West Climate Change Web Portal for agency and network knowledge sharing, as well as a community awareness raising resource
- Facilitation of a large-scale regional climate change forum with a wide range of specialist speakers and activities

CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES OF THE BARWON SOUTH WEST PROJECT TIMELINE



Victorian Local Sustainability Accord Grant
\$600,000
Plus Council & Partner Contributions \$317,000

Victorian Adaptation & Sustainability Partnership Grants:

- G21 Councils \$200,000
- GSC Councils \$200,000

Plus Council Contributions of \$122,000

Victorian Climate Change Grants:
\$190,000
Plus Council Contributions of \$24,000





Physical Works & General Services

This section of the Plan incorporated a wide range of services, including waste management, water usage, purchasing, contracts, storm water management, minimising waste at Council events, Council energy usage/carbon emissions, fleet management and street lighting. It is focused on activities that Council has direct control over.

Major Achievements

- Commitment by Council to become Carbon Neutral in 2020-2021 to honour Council's carbon neutral target set by the Environment Strategy.
- \$1.46 million invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy for all Council operations
- 370,000kwh of clean, emission free electricity generated annually from solar PV systems
- 100% Green Electricity for Council Operations
- Improved Water Sensitive Urban Design outcomes from new industrial and residential developments
- Energy efficiency audits undertaken, followed by \$200,000 of energy efficiency upgrades implemented through the Local Government Energy Saver Program, including LED lights and 30kW solar PV system to Council's Pound Road Depot and 30kw solar PV system to the Colac Library and the replacement of two large 96kW Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems at COPACC with more efficient models
- 5% weighting to environmentally sustainable practices and content when engaging and contracting with suppliers over \$150,000
- All printer/photocopiers used in council offices use 100% recycled printing paper products. All print cartridges are recyclable
- 100% post-consumer recycled toilet paper and paper towel in every council facility including public facilities such as public toilets
- Queen Street shared path solar light installation in 2020
- Adoption and implementation of the Colac Stormwater Development Strategy 2019
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Kennett River/Skenes Creek Stormwater Concept Plan





Physical Works & General Services

- Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) included in Council's pool fleet in 2019
- Light Fleet Vehicle Policy developed and adopted in 2019
- Solar compaction bins installed at Apollo Bay, Lavers Hill, Gellibrand, Beech Forest and Colac's Memorial Square to monitor waste levels and avoid waste overflowing at peak holiday times
- Significant increase in the use of recovered or reusable materials, including using wood chips from tree maintenance for mulching; road materials recovered from asphalt renewal projects repurposed in high maintenance areas on gravel roads; and recovered bitumen material from Regional Roads Victoria used on maintenance of local roads.
- 48 Public Place Recycling Bins serviced in the municipality on a weekly basis.
- Installation of nine Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT's) including 7 in Colac and 2 in Apollo Bay removing over 30 tonnes of gross pollutants annually.
- Replacement of cool season grass to warm season grass at Central Reserve, Western Reserve, the Lake Cricket Ground and the Colac Hockey fields
- Demonstration rain garden established in Colac's Memorial Square
- Victorian electric vehicle trial from 2013-2014
- Separation of waste streams to minimise waste and maximise recycling in all Council buildings
- Adoption of the Colac Otway Carbon Neural Roadmap 2013
- In 2013 Marengo landfill was rehabilitated with a clay cap and topsoil at a cost of \$250,000.
- Retrofitting 1540 streetlights with LED lights reducing 70% of the streetlight operating costs by \$85,000 per year.
- Installation of five solar photovoltaic systems to generate electricity: at the Colac and Apollo Bay Visitor Information Centres, Colac Saleyards, COPACC/Council's Rae Street offices and Bluewater between 2010-2018 .
- De-lamping and LED lighting retrofits at Council offices and in public open space areas.
- Establishment of a kitchen garden in the Colac Rae Street building courtyard.





Physical Works & General Services



- An Instantaneous gas boosted solar hot water installed at nine council facilities, including Central Reserve, Lake Oval, the Youth Centre and the Pound
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Apollo Bay Drainage Strategy 2012
- Climate Change Adaption Plans developed for eight Council buildings
- Conversion of Gellibrand St old library to new Council and community facility to include sustainability features, including 6kw solar PV system and energy efficient LED lighting with occupancy sensors
- Implementation of the Colac Otway Stormwater Management Plan 2002
- A bike fleet was introduced in 2010 to service staff at Colac's main offices, depot and leisure centre to promote health and wellbeing, and boost active transport options.
- 2.7 Million litres of water saved annually through the installation of water tanks installed at Central Reserve and Bluewater Fitness Centre
- Hard waste collection

Highlights

Becoming Carbon Neutral



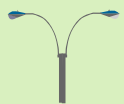
2.7million litres of water saved

from water saving measures



4.6 ha of sports oval turf changed to water saving turf

9 Gross Pollutant Traps installed, collecting an average of 30 tonnes of waste per year



1540 streetlights with LED lights



275kW solar PV generation capacity installed on buildings

\$1.46 million invested in energy efficiency and renewable energy



9 former landfills assessed or audited to ensure appropriate aftercare management

CASE STUDY

Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan

The Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan sets out a practical and achievable 10-year action plan for improvements to the foreshore areas under Council's management, which run between Rifle Butts Road and Clark Street and along Barongarook Creek to Murray Street. Meredith Park, on the north-eastern shore of the lake, is also included in the plan.

The master plan divides the lake foreshore into 10 zones, and identifies and prioritises works to improve human amenity, preserve and enhance environmental values, and recognise the role of the lake as a focal point and valued community asset in Colac.

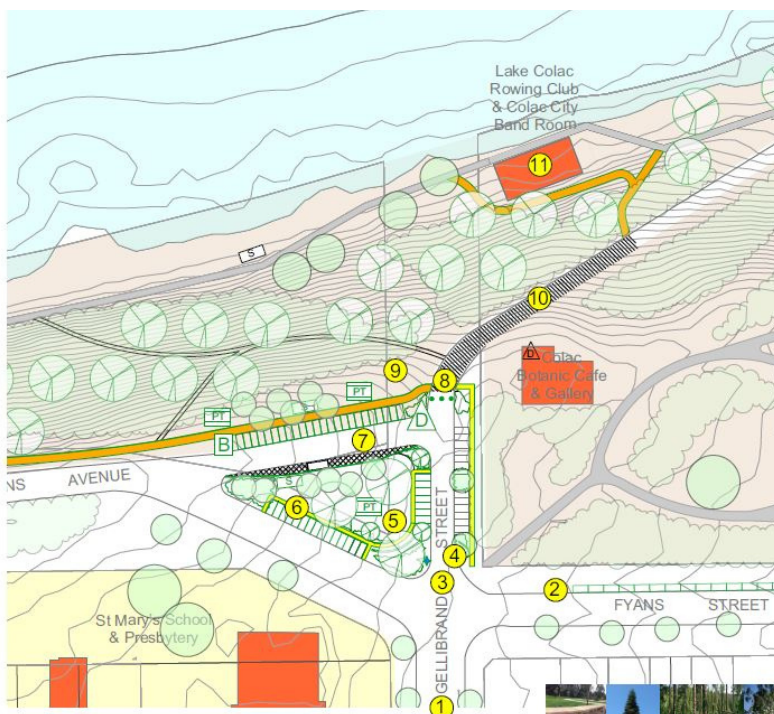
Implementation of actions identified in the plan have incrementally been undertaken since the plan was endorsed in 2016, and have included significant resourcing by Council as well as attracting investment from state government. These works include:

- Installation of new park furniture, including picnic tables, seating and shelters
- Installation of safety lighting in the carpark near the boat ramp and along the foreshore pathway near the Botanical Gardens
- Installation of a new shared pathway along Queens Avenue
- Replacement of the existing gravel carpark near the Rowing Club with a sealed carpark
- Replacement of the existing pine footbridge over Barongarook Creek near the Chapel Street bridge
- Installation of drinking fountains
- Foreshore beach reclamation

LAKE COLAC FORESHORE MASTER PLAN



2016–2026



Zone 4: Gellibrand St carpark precinct

LEGEND - Existing		LEGEND - Proposed	
[Symbol]	Zoned Public Park & Recreation	[Symbol]	Vegetation
[Symbol]	Zoned Public Use Building	[Symbol]	Tree
[Symbol]	Zoned General Residential	[Symbol]	Shared pathway
[Symbol]	Vegetation	[Symbol]	Secondary pathway
[Symbol]	Tree	[Symbol]	Bus parking
[Symbol]	Building for Public Use	[Symbol]	Seat
[Symbol]	Shared pathway	[Symbol]	Bin
[Symbol]	Seat	[Symbol]	Picnic table
[Symbol]	Bin	[Symbol]	Signage - Informative
[Symbol]	Picnic table	[Symbol]	Signage - Directional
[Symbol]	Signage - Directional	[Symbol]	Signage - Informative
[Symbol]	Signage - Informative	[Symbol]	Sculptural installation

MASTERPLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Street tree plantings between Pollack and Calvert Street to strengthen visual link along Gellibrand Street between Colac town centre and the lake environs. Match proposed Murray Street plantings of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) to strengthen the connection
- 2 Utilise gravel verge in Fyans Street as overflow parking. Upgrade as required
- 3 Enhancing the impact of the Gellibrand St / Queens Ave intersection / as a main entry to the lake & Botanic Gardens precinct and as a key link with Colac township. This area needs to communicate a strong sense of arrival to a major destination. Investigate options for improving street and path connectivity, and traffic flow and management
- 4 A formal rock wall and sculptural / public art installation or similar (e.g. Dorothy's anchor) to help define the entrance to the lake environs. Detailed design to determine features / elements
- 5 Planting of 3 advanced Cook Pines (*Araucaria columnaris*). When mature the pines will act as a visual marker from the town centre and signal a main entry to the lake / Botanic Gardens environs
- 6 Formalising / sealing car and bus parking
- 7 Sealing of the end of Gellibrand St
- 8 Removable bollards to control traffic during festivals or events
- 9 New picnic tables / seating (universal access design)
- 10 Road markings to denote shared pedestrian / car roadway
- 11 Short term - Painting and clean up / screen plant around buildings
Longer term - if water-based activities are considered viable, renovate in line with Council





Education and Awareness Raising Programs

There is now a global trend of people lacking connection, understanding and awareness of how they impact on the earth. Environmental education and leadership are critical components in reconnecting people with the natural environment, including being proactive with environmental protection and living sustainably.

Council plays a pivotal role in developing, delivering and facilitating environmental education programs, which provide the knowledge, skill, value, capacity and motivation to encourage Colac Otway Shire staff, residents, community groups, young people and businesses to deliver environmentally sustainable outcomes to benefit us all.

Major Achievements

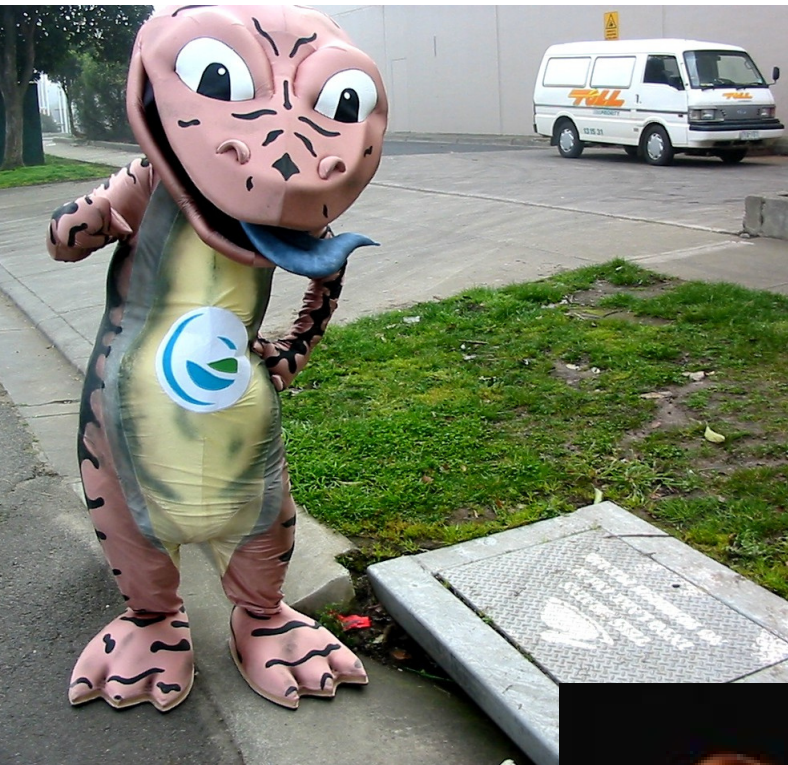
- Over 11,500 school students involved in National Tree Day, Fishing Workshops and World Environment Day since the adoption of the strategy
- Other community and school events have included Earth Hour, Clean Up Australia Day, Threatened Species Day and Fishing Workshops
- Education and training for Council staff on relevant legislation, sites of biodiversity and cultural training
- Regular updates on environmental initiatives undertaken by Council through community engagement, including media releases, editorial articles, Council's website and social media platforms.





Education and Awareness Raising Programs

- Implementation of the Festivals and Events Strategic Plan 2007-2011 which aims to increase sustainable waste management at all festivals and events.
- Waste Wise Festivals and Events, including the Forrest Soup Festival, where patrons bring and wash their own cups, and with reusable mugs for sale; The Great Ocean Road Running Festival, which deploys water stations with compostable cups, and; The Apollo Bay Seafood Festival, which is single-use plastic bag free, with all traders using reusable or eco-friendly compostable packaging.



Over 11,500 school students involved in environmental activities facilitated by Council, including - National Tree Day, Clean Up Australia Day, Fishing Workshops and World Environment Day



World Environment Day 2019

CASE STUDY

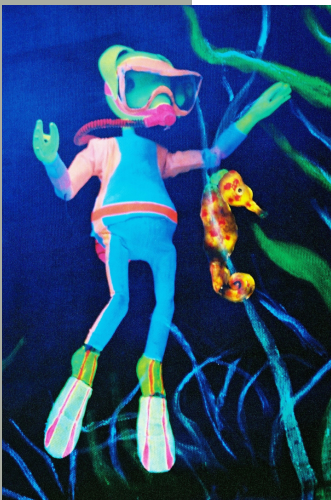


Colac Otway Shire Council's Environment Unit has a long tradition of hosting a range of shows, activities and celebrations for World Environment Day, targeted at community and schools engagement. In 2019 the unit undertook a particularly large-scale event, teaming up with COPACC to host more than 500 students in honour of the day.

The World Environment Day theme for that year focussed on air pollution, and the ways governments, industry, communities, and individuals can come together to improve air quality, minimise individual personal impacts on the environment, and enhance and protect our local areas, for collective impacts on a global scale.

The event began with a presentation of Dreamer in the Deep - a puppetry show that explores the complexity of the ocean environment and encourages young people to think about the changes they can make to help protect our oceans and planet. A 'round robin' of activities followed the show, enabling students to participate in two each of a selection of highly engaging, hands-on activities. These were:

- Making mini-planter, terrarium-style take home gardens - run by COS Environment Unit
- Origami animal activity and installation in natural diorama - run by COS Environment Unit
- Felt fish activity - run by Irene Pagram and Jane Bear, Colac Makers Space
- Oversized puzzle game - by Yuulong artist Brian Worsley
- Wind turbine activity - run by Acciona
- Exploration of underwater river environment - run by CCMA.



Advocacy & Facilitation

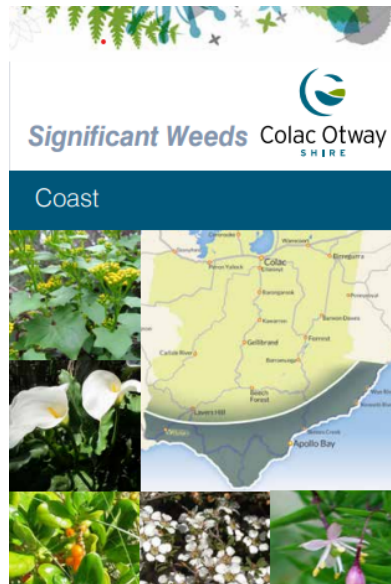
Although the Strategy limited its Targets to areas of Council that we had direct control over, we understand the importance of advocacy on behalf of the community and facilitating community action. Council has provided support to and advocated for the following programs:

- Advocacy for the establishment of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority
- Workshops on sustainable living and energy and water conservation
- Supporting Landcare in revegetation of private land, which has resulted in a large number of trees being planted in a wide range of locations
- Support of the Eco living Project
- Supporting the Apollo Bay Sustainability Group to establish a renewable roadmap through our community grants program. This enabled the group to set strategic direction for sustainable projects for the community for the next 20 years.
- Supporting Solar Hot Water Bulk Buy initiatives
- Solar panels and batteries bulk buy
- Sustainable homes tour
- Support for plastic bag free townships, including Birregurra and Apollo Bay
- Assistance facilitating Mobile Muster, Drum Muster, E-Waste Disposal, Silage wrap, Detox Your Home, battery recycling and printer cartridges disposal.
- Participation in regional and local environment and sustainability forums and groups
- Active help to the community to advocate against coal seam gas and fracking
- Advocacy against unconventional gas exploration and extraction
- Advocacy for greater environmental oversight of seismic testing and its impacts on fisheries operations



Publications

Educational & Community Information Publications



1. Garden for Wildlife: Local plants for native wildlife
2. Significant Weeds of Colac Otway Shire - Three separate booklets for different geographical areas: 'Plains and Stoney Rises', 'Foothills and Ranges' and 'Coast'.
3. Landscaping your Coastal Garden for Bushfire

Strategies & Plans

- Birregurra Flood and Drainage Strategy (2021)
- Colac Otway Shire Operational Weed Management Policy (2020)
- Colac 2050 Growth Plan via Amendment C97 (2019)
- Colac Stormwater Development Strategy (2019)
- COS Climate Change Adaption Plan (2017-2027)
- Lake Colac Foreshore Masterplan (2016-2026)
- Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) (2015)
- Draft Colac Urban Forest Strategy (2015)
- Colac Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (2014)
- Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan (CREMP) (2014)
- Colac Otway Carbon Neural Roadmap (2013)
- Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan (2013)
- Environmental Sustainability Policy (2012)
- Colac Otway Stormwater Management Plan Volume 1 and Volume 2 (2012)
- Rural Living Strategy (2011)
- Public Open Space Strategy (2011)
- Festivals and Events Strategic Plan (2007-2011)
- Detailed Environmental Management Plans developed Very High Conservation Roadsides, including Poornet Station Road and Cressy Shelford Road
- Detailed Land Management Plans developed for 8 high conservation reserves including Beac Grassland, Barongarook Conservation Reserve and Heathfield Estate, Apollo Bay

Appendix

Complete - Target has been fully achieved

In progress – Significant progress has been made towards achieving the desired outcomes of the target and COS will continue to work towards its completion

Incomplete – Work was not undertaken towards achievement of the target

Ceased due to Changed Circumstances - Target was initiated but not completed due to an external program or organisation ceasing, resourcing and/or funding constraints, or the target was no longer considered relevant

Target Reference	Target	Target Status
	Council Managed Land	
CMLT1	Undertake assessments of environmental assets and threats on Council Managed roadsides by 2010.	Complete
CMLT2	Develop a policy to ensure that when acquiring land as part of a sub-division it will be assessed against a selection criteria and priority given to areas with more environmental value by 2011.	Complete
CMLT3	Develop a policy to ensure that when acquiring any land consideration will be given to environmental management requirements by 2011.	Complete
CMLT4	Review and update the current roadside vegetation management plan and the environmental weed strategy by 2011	Complete
CMLT5	Continue to implement Councils existing management plans for Council owned and managed land and review progress by 2014. (e.g. Lake Colac Revegetation and Weed Control Plan).	In progress
CMLT6	Undertake detailed assessments of environmental assets and threats on all Council managed land of highvalue and moderate value by 2014. (e.g. Marengo Flora Reserve).	In progress
CMLT7	Develop and begin implementation of site specific management plans for all Council managed land of high value and moderate value by 2014. (e.g. Barham River Confluence).	In progress
CMLT8	Continue to implement Councils existing management plans for Council owned and managed roads and review progress in 2014. (e.g. Poorneet Lane Management Plan).	In progress
CMLT9	Develop and begin implementation of site specific management plans for all high value roadsides by 2014. (e.g. Beeac-Dreeite Roadside).	In progress
CMLT10	Develop and begin implementation of site specific management plans for all medium value roadsides by 2018 (e.g. Dewing's Bridge Road Gerangamete).	Incomplete
CMLT11	Ensure that all management plans for high value Council managed land and roadsides consider issues associated with adapting to climate change.	In progress

	Planning and Regulations	
PRT1	Incorporate most current environmental mapping into Councils planning scheme and review as required.	In progress
PRT2	Develop and implement response strategies to environmental pollution events by 2011.	In progress
PRT3	Develop and commence implementation of an offset management procedure to manage native vegetation off-sets established across the Shire by 2011.	Incomplete
PRT4	Develop a Council Environmental Sustainability policy for the organisation that addresses opportunities for improving sustainability of new developments by 2012.	Complete
PRT5	Implement a Council Environmental Sustainability Policy for the organisation that addresses opportunities for improving sustainability of new developments by 2012.	In progress
PRT6	Review the Municipal Strategic Statement by 2014 and ensure climate change, salinity, sustainable land use and acid sulphate soils are recognised appropriately and are managed through statutory controls.	Complete
PRT7	Implement recommendations in the Colac Otway Shire Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, review the Plan's performance and renew by 2014.	In progress
PRT8	Develop and implement standards for domestic wastewater treatment systems near waterways and in water supply and ground water recharge areas by 2014.	In progress
PRT9	Develop and commence implementation of an Integrated Fire Management Plan by 2014 for safety and ecological outcomes.	In progress
PRT10	Undertake audits of at least 20 properties with land management plans and 20 logging coupes every year with a target of 100% compliance by 2018.	In progress

	Physical works and general services	
PWGST1	Maintain regular water quality monitoring at nine waterway sites across the region and place results on the Council website every three months.	Ceased due to changed circumstances.
PWGST2	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with local aboriginal groups, to ensure protection of cultural heritage and to engage them in environmental management initiatives by 2011.	Incomplete
PWGST3	Develop and implement a criteria for assessing the environmental credentials and plans of contractors, in a manner appropriate for the nature and scope of the works by 2011.	In progress
PWGST4	Develop and implement a Council Environmental Sustainability policy to direct Council's programs, projects, processes and services by 2012 and undertake audits to ensure compliance.	Complete
PWGST5	A total of 65% recovery rate (by weight) of waste produced through Council operations for re-use, recycling or energy generation by 2013.	Complete
PWGST6	Develop an Environmental Management System that encourages best management practices for all Council programmes, projects, services, plans and policies by 2014 and investigate having it ISO14001 accredited by 2016.	Ceased due to changed circumstances.

PWGST7	Council to improve water use efficiency by implementing Water Management Action Plans for Council facilities that consume more than 10ML per year and review progress by 2014.	Ceased due to changed circumstances.
PWGST8	Obtain Waste Wise certification for 11 major Council facilities by 2014.	Complete
PWGST9	Implement the recommendations of the Colac Otway Stormwater Management Plan and review progress in 2014	In progress
PWGST10	Waste Wise certification requirement for all Council approved community events and festivals held within the Shire by 2014.	Ceased due to changed circumstances.
PWGST11	Council to increase green purchasing to 2.5% of total operating budget by 2014 and to 5% by 2018. (Note: Total operating budget includes human resource expenditure).	Ceased due to changed circumstances.
PWGST12	Council to become Carbon neutral (zero net emissions) by 2016. In 2013 this target was reset to be carbon neutral by 2020.	Complete
PWGST13	Council to satisfy 15% of its water consumption requirements through rainwater harvesting or treated water by 2016.	In progress

	Education and awareness raising programs	
EAT1	Maintain regular updates on environmental initiatives undertaken by Council through monthly media releases and highlight significant achievements in a detailed advertorial placed in local papers every two years.	Complete
EAT2	Develop ongoing 'general' and 'issue specific' training programmes for Council staff and Councillors addressing major issues in the Shire and relevant environmental/cultural heritage legislation and regulation by 2011.	In progress
EAT3	An environmental/cultural heritage induction process for new Council staff and Councillors to be developed and initiated by 2011.	Incomplete
EAT4	Develop and promote a web-based information package targeted at local businesses and industry and identify any specific training needs by 2011.	Incomplete
EAT5	Develop and promote a web based information package targeted at the general community and identify any specific training needs by 2011.	Incomplete
EAT6	Develop and implement an ongoing training programme for local business', industry and community by 2014.	Incomplete
EAT7	Provide a minimum of two environmental community days each year and support Landcare Groups to carry out ongoing works where community interest is sufficient	Complete