

Climate Resilience Plan Framework to 2030



Outlined below is the proposed structure of the Climate Resilience Plan with a brief summary of what will be included in each section.

1. Introduction and purpose

Introduction to climate resilience and why this is important and the purpose of the plan – to clearly outline the climate risks on the Mornington Peninsula and what Council will do about these risks.

Outline that the Climate Resilience Plan (the Plan) will provide the objectives, outcomes and actions for our organisation and community to have improved resilience to current and future impacts of Climate Change, built in four key areas: climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, biodiversity protection and sustainable infrastructure, with an over-arching consideration of financial sustainability, risk management and governance.

Outline the structure of the Plan - Council Statutory Obligations, the Role and Responsibility of Local Government, Climate related Council strategies and plans already in place, priority actions for Council to reduce Climate Risk Vulnerability and a Reporting Framework for these actions.

2. Local Government Statutory Obligations & Role

Outline Council's statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2020, the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 and the Public Health & Well-being Act 2008.

Outline the role of local government and the role of State and Federal Government and that this Plan will focus on actions that are within the remit of local council. Outline the importance of partnerships in delivering outcomes.

Outline where there are delivery gaps that impact the Mornington Peninsula community that are not being filled by State or Federal Government and outline the role the Shire will play.

3. Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

Outline the key local climate risks on the Peninsula, e.g. increasing extreme weather events, risk of landslide, flooding and bushfires, sea-level rise and increasing storm surges resulting in coastal erosion and flooding, less rainfall and cumulative or cascading impact of more than one of these impacts occurring.

Outline the potential impact of these risks – e.g. property damage, displacement of people, impact to agriculture, biodiversity, ecosystem risks and financial sustainability.

Outline that local governments are increasingly exposed to climate change risk through impacts to infrastructure, services, workforce and finances and that climate change risks include not only the physical damage, but also increased demand on services, increased insurance costs or limited coverage, increased on-going maintenance and retrofit costs and potential legal liability

Financial Sustainability, Risk and Governance

Outline the risk of climate impacts on financial sustainability, and the opportunities for cost savings and revenue streams.

Outline the risk management processes to identify and mitigate strategic organisational risks.

Outline the governance and consultation included within the Plan.

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Vulnerable communities

Outline the populations most at risk of being impacted by climate change on the Mornington Peninsula, that is: Aboriginal people, people experiencing poverty and on low incomes, people with chronic health conditions, older people, younger people, people experiencing homelessness, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse people and holiday makers.

Outline the communities that are at highest risk (based on socio-economic factors and heat exposure risk), that is: Capel Sound, Tootgarook, Rosebud, Hastings. Other vulnerable populations groups include communities in High Bushfire risks areas and low-lying areas.

Vulnerable assets

Outline the data tools that have been developed for the Mornington Peninsula and that they show exposure and criticality of Shire assets (roads, drains, buildings and open space) to six climate elements (extreme temperature, rainfall, dryness, flooding, sea level rise and storm surge). Highlight the most vulnerable assets including coastal infrastructure and critical Shire assets.

4. Strategic Priorities

Actions in the identified areas will be prioritised based on risk and impact. For each action, Council's role will be identified (eg. deliver, partner, advocate, regulate).

Climate Adaptation

Explain what climate adaptation is and the goal of adaptation.

Detail the key adaptation areas Council will deliver over the life of the Plan, these could include for example:

- a) Build resilient energy supply for key Shire buildings
- b) Continue to update local planning controls to respond to climate change based on the best available data and the precautionary approach
- c) Prepare our community for change and extreme events through adaptation programs e.g. implementation of Council's Community Disaster Resilience Plan
- d) Support businesses to build resilience through education and facilitate partner programs such as the SECCCA business support program.
- e) Finalise and adopt 'Our Coast, Our Future Strategy'
- f) Build resilience into our economy through existing strategies eg. Implementation of Food Economy and Agroecology Strategy 2022-2028
- g) Run community education programs on climate health risks and cost-effective measures to mitigate these risks and build resilience.
- h) Educate the community on resilient energy systems

Hazard Mitigation

Explain what hazard mitigation is and why it is important.

Detail the hazard mitigation actions Council will deliver over the life of the Plan, these could include, for example:

- a) Reducing the impacts of flood by for example, infrastructure upgrades and educating the community to understand property flood risk.
- b) Reducing the impacts of sea level rise and coastal change through for example, implementing coastal adaptation pathways for most at risk coastal areas and introducing planning controls to ensure development appropriately considers risk.
- c) Reducing the impacts of landslide and erosion by, for example actively monitoring land susceptibility in most at risk areas to inform mitigation triggers and introducing planning controls to ensure development appropriately considers risk.

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- d) Mitigating storm and bushfire risks through effective land management e.g. maintain fuel reduction zones
- e) Mitigating the impact of heatwaves through tree planting (see biodiversity section) e.g. increase canopy cover

Biodiversity Protection

Explain the various ecosystems across the Peninsula and how climate change is impacting our flora and fauna.

Detail the biodiversity protection actions Council will deliver over the life of the Plan, these could include, for example:

- a. Protecting flora and fauna through implementing Council's Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2019
- b. Increasing canopy cover through implementing Council's Urban Forest Strategy 2024-2034
- c. Protecting our trees through implementing the Tree management policy

Sustainable Infrastructure

Explain that this section only applies to Shire assets.

Explain why it is important, i.e. our infrastructure provides and enables delivery of services to all residents and businesses, as well as supporting resilience and health and wellbeing. It is vital to ensure that our roads, drainage, buildings and open spaces are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change, and that our investment into assets support energy resilience and lower the cost of living.

Detail the key sustainable infrastructure actions that Council will deliver over the life of the Plan, these could include, for example:

Roads, drainage, buildings and open space

- a) Identify infrastructure at high risk from climate hazards e.g. through Asset Vulnerability Assessment
- b) Embed climate vulnerability data into Asset Management Planning
- c) Determine investment requirements and plan to build long term resilience
- d) Build resilience through ESD Policy implementation for Civil Works

Buildings

- a) Implement ESD Policy for council buildings
- b) Identify building vulnerability to climate risks and build resilience through design

Energy

- a) Increase low-cost renewable energy generation and storage
- b) Reduce gas usage through electrification
- c) Reduce energy use through energy management and efficiency
- d) Develop and implement Energy Resilience Strategy

Transport

- a) Transition the Shire to low-cost electric vehicles e.g. implement the Fleet Management Policy 2022
- b) Facilitate expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure network on the Peninsula through tenancy of Council land where appropriate. Explore revenue raising opportunities as part of this.

5. Council strategies and plans

Explain that climate risk consideration is built into multiple Strategies and Plans across the Shire.

Explain that actions within these strategies contribute to building Climate resilience within the organisation and the Climate Resilience Plan will not duplicate the actions captured within these Strategies and Plans.

Some examples of Strategies that add to Climate Resilience include:

- a) Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029 which guides all actions in the Plan.
- b) Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy (in development) directs coastal investment and protection
- c) Flood and Stormwater Management Strategy reduces flood risks for Shire assets and Community infrastructure
- d) Biodiversity Conservation Plan 2019 and the Urban Forest Strategy 2024-2034 reduces urban heat effect increases tree planting and protects biodiversity
- e) Asset Management Strategy 2026 – 2036 (in development) embeds climate vulnerability data in determining asset protection, investment and long-term planning
- f) Food Economy and Agroecology strategy manages sustainable farming, a resilient food supply and drives economic opportunity
- g) Multiple other related strategies and plans include climate resilience.

6. Monitoring and reporting

Set out how our performance in delivering the actions will be measured, including baseline figures where available.

An Annual Action Plan will be developed to guide implementation and could include for example:

- Cost
- Risk mitigation, adaptation benefits and local impacts
- Priority and resourcing required
- Timeline for delivery

Detail the approach to reporting on progress against actions and metrics, including a public annual report (examples of annual metrics that could be considered include % Shire buildings with solar, % / \$ assets with high risk, number of trees planted etc) and quarterly through the Organisational Community Report.