



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014–17

Annual Action Plan 2014/15



Acknowledgements

Council would like to acknowledge the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board for its key role in developing the 2008 Strategy, guiding its implementation and for undertaking its review – leading to this Strategy.

The Board was established by Council in 2008 and took a lead role in developing the 2008 Strategy. It is an independent Board, consisting of skills based community members, agency representatives, and Councillors, and provides Council with expert advice and guidance. The Board is also supported by Council staff. The Board monitored and guided the implementation of the 2008 strategy and provided advice in respect to a wide range of environmental issues of relevance to Council.

Council would like to thank current and past Board members for their commitment and invaluable contributions that have assisted in developing frameworks to ensure Council is well placed to continue the increasingly important work of protecting and improving our valuable environment. Council would also like to acknowledge long standing members that have supported the environmental sustainability journey with Council since 2008.

Council also acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and their enduring relationship with country. Council aspires to strengthen our partnerships and supports Aboriginal participation in management processes for land and natural resources. We recognise Australia's rich cultural heritage and aim to encourage integrated decision making now and in the future.

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Our Vision:

“That East Gippsland will retain its unique environment. We are all learning how we can tread a little more lightly in our environment. We want to make changes that will help us do our job in the best way we can. By doing this, Council aspires to help all East Gippslanders to live more sustainably. Together we can make a difference”.

Introduction

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy outlines East Gippsland Shire Council's position on issues relating to the protection, preservation and enhancement of our environment and provides a framework towards a more sustainable future.

Council has a role in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the region's natural environment. We can do this by using our resources more efficiently, by reducing our everyday impacts, and encouraging the people of East Gippsland to do the same.

Building on the foundation of the initial Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2008-13, this Strategy provides practical initiatives that will continue to deliver Council's primary environment and sustainability commitments.

The definition of sustainability from the 2008 Strategy remains unchanged. That is to "ensure the protection and repair of ecological processes upon which our lifestyles depend for environmental, social and economic benefit - today and for the future."

The key objectives are to:

- Ensure Council makes the pursuit of environmental sustainability a priority when undertaking its operations and fulfilling its responsibilities,
- Ensure Council develops new, and strengthens existing, partnerships to effectively deliver environmental sustainability outcomes,
- Ensure Council and the people of East Gippsland are informed on ways to better protect, enhance and enjoy our unique environment,
- Promote collective responsibility for environmental sustainability by engaging community and supporting change.

Council's Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

COMMUNITY VISION 2030

In November 2008, Council endorsed a vision for the long-term future of East Gippsland. The document described the way the future would be in a narrative form. It was developed with input from community members across the Shire.

Council reviewed the vision in 2012 to check that it remains current and continues to reflect the aspirations of the East Gippsland community.

Six major vision themes address a number of long-term issues identified by the community, including:

- Natural environment
- Local economy
- Community
- Land use and built environment
- Infrastructure
- Governance



COUNCIL PLAN 2013–17

The Council Plan 2013–17 outlines how Council will contribute to the delivery of the community's aspirations identified within the Community Vision 2030.

The focus areas within the Council Plan are:

- People – We contribute to and support healthy, resilient and connected communities
- Place – We promote, maintain and improve the quality of our built and natural environments
- Economy – We contribute to a prosperous and sustainable region that takes advantage of economic opportunities
- Stewardship – Our Shire is well managed and supported by a resourceful, responsive organisation

The main focus relating to Council's commitment to environmental sustainability is Place, however there are a number of goals / actions in other focus areas that relate to or are a result of Council's commitment to environmental sustainability.

Goals relating to Place are:

We promote, maintain and improve the quality of our natural and built environments.

- Goal One – Our resources are used in a sustainable way.
- Goal Two – Land use planning delivers vibrant, connected and productive places.
- Goal Three – Our infrastructure meets current and future community needs.
- Goal Four – Our natural assets are maintained and enhanced.

Each area of focus is defined by goals. Core services are identified that contribute to promoting, maintaining and improving the quality of our natural and built environments. Within each goal are key outcomes describing what Council is working towards to achieve the goals. Specific Council activities and projects that outline how we will achieve the outcomes for the year are listed under each objective.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2008–13

The 2008 Strategy was the first environment strategy developed by East Gippsland Shire. It focussed on Council's role in environmental sustainability and identified ways to reduce resource consumption, protect land and biodiversity and make good decisions about land use and development.

With strong supportive partnerships, which were formed or strengthened during the development and implementation of the 2008 Strategy, and shared local goals, this provided the foundation to ensure we have the support and capacity to adapt over time to a changing environment in an effective and sustainable way.

In 2013/14 over \$2 million in external funding has been successfully secured for a number of projects focussing on environmental sustainability over the coming years. These projects, around climate change mitigation and adaptation, are a high priority and will guide the development of many actions developed in this Strategy. The first strategy was the basis for much of this funding.

The 2008 Strategy remains an important reference document for the Shire, its partners and the community as we all continue our journey towards ensuring environmental sustainability remains a priority and we strengthen our relationship with the environment and reduce our everyday environmental impacts.

A high level audit of the implementation of the 2008 Strategy was undertaken in 2013 and concluded that:

- It was largely progressed with many actions either completed or nearing completion. The Sustainability Unit, Council and its partners should be commended in fulfilling many of the actions in whole or part of what could be considered an ambitious first strategy.
- There were a series of challenges and/or barriers to its implementation which have been considered throughout the review process.

Highlights from the 2008 Strategy include:

- Further Plans and Strategies developed including Energy Use Reduction Plan, Urban Waterway Guidelines and Management Strategy, Roadside Vegetation Strategy and Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.
- Energy efficiency projects had progressed including office lighting upgrades, Bairnsdale Livestock Exchange lighting upgrade and solar hot water upgrades.
- A number of community awareness programs established including smart living library display, sustainable gardening information, 'is my backyard creeping', community planning sustainability toolkit, and 'Our Environment' section on Council's website.
- Landbank established for Council projects requiring vegetation offsets. Trust for Nature covenants approved. Weeding, fencing and planting undertaken as part of Management Plans.

- Coordination and participation at a number of events and environmental programs including East Gippsland Field Days, Sustainable House Day, Earth Hour, sponsorship of the Renewable Energy Demonstration Trailer, and Climate Change Forums.
- Environmental training programs for internal staff including native vegetation, environmental legislation, integrated energy management, water sensitive urban design, and sustainable design in the planning process.
- In 2013/14 over \$2 million in external funding has been successfully secured for a number of projects focussing on environmental sustainability over the coming years. These projects, around climate change mitigation and adaptation, are a high priority and will guide the development of many actions developed in this Strategy.

Given this was the first strategy and subsequently East Gippsland Shire's commitment to having a dedicated Sustainability Unit, a number of Actions initiated within the 2008 Strategy can now be considered 'business as usual' or 'core services' that contribute to promoting, maintaining and improving environmental sustainability within East Gippsland.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mitigation: Reducing emissions to create a Bright Future for East Gippsland

Over \$1.7 million in funding from the Australian Government's Community Energy Efficiency Program was secured in 2013, to reduce costs from electricity and associated emissions from the Shire's top energy sources.

Council's carbon footprint will be reduced by 1,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year while utility costs will be reduced by \$400,000 each year.

Projects include:

- Installing LED street lights to replace all the 3,000 old street lights in residential streets
- Upgrades to the Lakes Aquadome and the Bairnsdale Aquatic and Recreation Centre with the latest energy efficient technology (including heat recovery equipment, pool blankets, cogeneration, energy-smart lighting and more) installing energy efficient heating and cooling and LED lighting in the Bairnsdale Corporate Centre. This project is helping to create a Bright Future for East Gippsland.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Adaptation: Planning early to adapt to climate change impacts

A further \$360,000 of funding was secured in 2013 from the State Government as part of the Victorian Adaptation Sustainability and Partnership Program, East Gippsland Shire is leading three projects: Climate Risk and Resilience Information Provision for Property Buyers; Concept design for coastal flooding adaptation to progress and demonstrate implementation; and Enabling Gippsland Councils to integrate climate risk and adaptation into local and regional strategies.

A key influence towards securing these funds was Council's commitment to environmental sustainability that was clearly articulated in the 2008 Strategy. These projects will be implemented over the life of this Strategy and have guided Actions within Council's Year 2 Action Plan.

PURPOSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

With a strengthened emphasis on environmental sustainability the focus areas and outcomes have been aligned with the Council Plan.

The key objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Ensure Council makes the pursuit of environmental sustainability a priority when undertaking its operations and fulfilling its responsibilities,
- Ensure Council develops new, and strengthens existing, partnerships to effectively deliver environmental sustainability outcomes,
- Ensure Council and the people of East Gippsland are informed on ways to better protect, enhance and enjoy our unique environment,
- Promote collective responsibility for environmental sustainability by engaging community and supporting change.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

The following is an outline of what is now considered 'business as usual' in respect to environmental sustainability:

- A shift in the direction towards an improved culture of sustainability across the organisation
- Implement community awareness and behavioural change programs to encourage and support reduced use of energy and resources.
- Undertake projects to reduce Shire's resource and energy consumption as an organisation.
- Lobby state and federal government for funding and legislative support in relation to environmental sustainability policies, legislation and programs.
- Build on existing and create new partnerships that effectively deliver environmental sustainability outcomes.

The first Strategy embedded core values into 'business as usual' and will guide future direction.

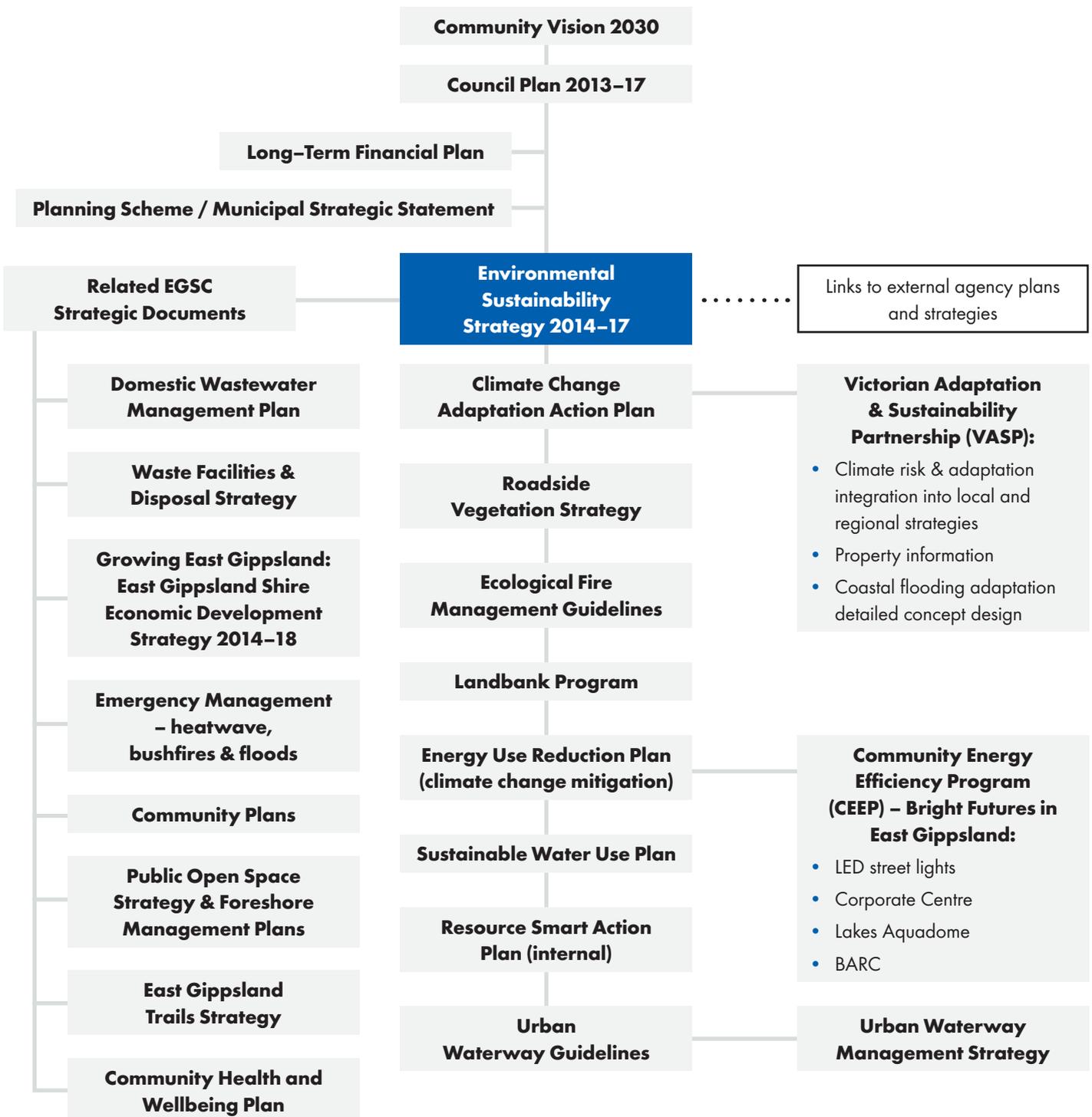


Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014–17

- Provide expert advice and guidance on policy development for Environmental Planning.
- Support local environment groups by providing them with information relating to funding opportunity as well as promoting the Sustainability Gippsland website.
- Support the Environment and Sustainability stream of the East Gippsland Shire Community Grants program and participate in the selection process for the environment stream.
- Develop and provide environmental sustainability information to the East Gippsland community through website, media, social media and Council publications.
- Support ResourceSmart Schools Program, which is an initiative that helps schools embed sustainability and take action to minimise waste, save energy and water, promote biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Coordinate and encourage the East Gippsland Shire's internal Resource Smart Action Group to improve environmental performance, support and educate staff in sustainability practices, build internal capacity for the implementation of environmental sustainability.
- Strengthen and develop new relationships with agencies and authorities to ensure a coordinated approach towards environmental sustainability i.e. East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Regional Catchment Strategy
- Support and enhance existing Natural Resource Management programs and activities.
- Implementation of policies and strategies that support and encourage the protection and management of remnant native vegetation and revegetation.
- Keep informed of native vegetation regulation and promote best practice within Shire operations and to the broader community.
- Promotion, active involvement and connections to sustainability environmental programs and activities developed by other organisations / agencies / authorities.
- Maintain active membership of key conservation management networks, steering committees and work groups, working with partner agencies and community involved in sustainable natural resource management planning and works.
- Support local groups that focus on sustainable land management and facility stewardship.
- Provide efficient and environmentally sensitive waste services across the municipality.
- Work with business and industry to find solutions and consider the benefits environmental sustainability can have to their operations (e.g. reduced costs, improved image)
- Advocate for and implement land use policies, plans and standards that guide land use development and promote sustainable design, development and heritage conservation. Supported through continual reviews and improvements to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme.

RELATED STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Local government operates within the context of a broader governance framework, including the international community, and Commonwealth and State governments.



Victorian adaptation and sustainability partnership

The Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership (VAS Partnership) is an established partnership between Victoria's 79 Councils and the Victorian Government, previously known as the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord.

The principles of the Partnership are to:

- build shared understanding; establish shared local goals and priorities;
- develop long term strategic resource allocation and funding;
- pursue alignment and cooperation in service delivery; and
- improve procedures for regular, effective evaluation and review.

This will result in strengthened relations between Councils; sharing of resources, knowledge and expertise; consistent approaches across the State; and increased sharing of project learnings and key findings.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed by the Victorian Minister for Environment and Climate Change on behalf of the Victorian Government; the President of the Municipal Association of Victoria on behalf of local government in Victoria; and the Chair of the VAS Partnership Ministerial Advisory Committee on behalf of the VAS Partnership.

The MoU formalises the partnership between state and local government to increase clarity of responsibilities in climate change adaptation.

The MoU provides a framework for action by setting out:

- agreed principles to guide state and local government work in climate change adaptation
- a list of the priority areas of adaptation where responsibilities require clarity; and
- a shared commitment to engage and work on these priority areas to increase clarity.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Indicators of success

A Municipality where Council:

- Leads by example and is at the forefront of environmental sustainability issues.
- Works with the whole community to protect and restore the natural environment.
- Provides targeted programs and services and uses its influence to enable all sectors of the community to be environmentally sustainable.
- Actively advocates, influences and works with stakeholders to achieve environmental sustainability outcomes for the community now and into the future.
- Plans and makes decisions with a focus on both immediate needs and the long term.
- Understands the short-term versus long term environmental cost and benefit implications of its decisions.

A Municipality where the community:

- Is proud of their sustainability achievements.
- Is well educated and engaged in how to reduce and manage their ecological footprint.
- Actively enjoys and takes care of their natural environment.
- Participates in sustainability related programs and applies to the environment and sustainability stream of the East Gippsland Shire Community Grants program.
- Values and support industries and businesses committed to environmental as well as social and economic sustainability.
- Increasingly sees sustainability as the normal thing to do.
- Is respectful of our Aboriginal and cultural heritage.



Sustainability Issues and Priorities

The environmental policy context for this Strategy has continued to evolve since the 2008 Strategy was prepared.

The current drivers of change and significant environmental, social and economic trends are described in this section. The challenges and key opportunities to improve East Gippsland's environmental sustainability are discussed. These include relevant issues and opportunities identified in the Council Plan.

Achieving environmental sustainability in the broadest sense, that is allowing our society and economy to flourish within the capacity of the natural environment to support them, will require continual change to the way we live our lives and conduct our business. This includes the way the Shire provides services to the community.

Since 2008, climate monitoring continues to demonstrate above average global temperature rises, and the concept of 'adaptation' has become familiar in relation to adjusting to the impacts of climate change. Adaptation to change is one of the components to be considered in this Strategy and is an area that has gained focus at all levels of government.

DRIVERS

Community expectations

The local community expects Council to minimise the negative impacts of its operations on the environment, and actively work towards enhancing environmental outcomes. At a minimum the community expects Council to comply with environmental legislation; maintain a liveable environment; incorporate sustainable development as the population grows; protect natural resources and respond to climate change.

Population growth and change

East Gippsland's population will continue to grow and change. In particular, the average age of the population will increase and household sizes will continue to decline. This means the demand for new housing will expand at a rate faster than population growth. There is a community expectation that development will occur sustainably, and not at the expense of the environmental outcomes.

Climate change

The Council Plan recognises that East Gippsland Shire is vulnerable to coastal hazards, inundation, fire and extreme natural events and climate change has potential to increase our vulnerability. Work is continuing to understand the nature and extent of future impacts on communities. Council is committed to assisting communities to adapt to future conditions in a planned way. This is a key driver for the organisation in the coming years.

Legislative and Policy

Local government operates in a highly regulated environment, and broadly the environment is bound by over forty pieces of legislation. This is a key driver for environmental management by local government. The changing regulation at the State and Commonwealth level means the focus can change, and what was once a driver can shift.

For example, new governments elected at both the Commonwealth and State levels since the 2008 Strategy, has seen substantial changes in the structure of government departments and in the policy context and funding programs. More changes are expected in the short to medium-term, with environmental policy likely to be particularly affected. There is currently an increased focus towards climate change adaptation planning.

Liveability

East Gippsland's economy and communities are heavily reliant on the natural environment, both directly and indirectly. As well as supporting primary industries such as fishing, forestry and farming, the environment is a key component of the appeal of the area for tourism and makes a major contribution to the lifestyle of residents. The area is also a key reservoir of biodiversity in temperate mainland Australia.

Council needs to ensure its actions and decisions support the efforts of other agencies and individuals to maintain the quality of the environment, particularly water quality and quantity for urban and rural use, the health of the lakes systems – particularly the Gippsland Lakes, Lake Tyers and Mallacoota Inlet – and conservation of significant native vegetation.

Financial

There are a range of cost pressures being experienced by Council, residents and businesses in East Gippsland. These include rising utility costs, cost of living and costs of compliance with environmental legislation (waste services, emissions etc). Financial constraints in relation to rising energy costs is currently a driver for many in the community.

Leadership

A key driver of the Council Plan is to provide leadership on issues of importance to East Gippsland and advocates on behalf of the community and its vision for the future.



A 20% increase in the number of new dwellings is forecast by 2031 (from 2011 levels). This equates to 5,000 new households.

TRENDS AND FORECASTS

Population growth and change

The population of East Gippsland Shire grew by approximately 3,700 between 2001 and 2011. Growth rates in the five-year period 2001–06 were quite low (less than 0.7% per year), but increased in the latter period to an average of 1.1 per cent annually.

Forecasts indicate East Gippsland's population will increase by 10,000 to 14,000 from 2011 to 2031 (Victoria in Future 2012 and 2014). Growth rates are forecast to vary between 0.9 per cent and 1.2 per cent per year, with an average of 1.0 per cent – consistent with growth over the past five years. The number of new households needing to be accommodated in the period to 2031 is estimated at almost 5,000, with an annual average growth rate of 1.2%. This represents an increase of over 20 per cent on the current number of dwellings.

There are forecast to be modest increases in the number of people in each age group up to 49 years, decreases in the numbers of residents aged between 50 and 64 years, and significant increases in the age groups from 65 years. This age structure is typical of rural and regional Victoria.

Climate change

A recent summary of observed changes in climate in the coastal areas of Gippsland and south-east New South Wales was prepared for studies funded by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.

The past 40 years (up to 2011) in East Gippsland have seen:

- A warming trend in surface air temperatures, with mean temperatures (average of the daily maximum and minimum) increasing by between 0.6 – 0.8°C.
- A slight increase in the number of hot days (above 35°C) and a decrease in the number of cold nights (minimum less than 5°C). However, these trends are superimposed on a high degree of year-to-year variability.
- A strong drying trend throughout the Shire, though rather less obvious in far East Gippsland. Rainfall has declined by 30 – 50 mm per decade and the number of wet days has reduced. The drying trend is relatively evenly distributed throughout the year, but slightly more pronounced in autumn.
- A decline in rainfall, both in terms of the number of days with heavy rain (>10mm) and the highest daily precipitation each year. There are observed sea-level rises from 1993 to 2011 of close to the global average of 3 mm per year.
- CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology have released climate change projections in early 2015 for Australia that provide updated national and regional information on how the climate may change to the end of the 21st century.
- The projections are the most comprehensive ever released for Australia and have been prepared with an emphasis on informing impact assessment and planning in the natural resource management sector. Material has been drawn from observations and from simulations based on up to 40 global climate models and four scenarios of greenhouse gas and aerosol emissions during the 21st century.
- The 2015 projections provide greater levels of detail and confidence compared to previous projections. Findings are consistent with previous projections research and analysis for Australia, and incorporate an increased knowledge base.

Projected trends for East Gippsland include:

Table: Future climate scenario predictions for the years 2030 and 2090.

Data contains summarised values from three models and two emissions scenarios (Low RCP4.5 and High RCP8.5).

Site	Variable	1995 Baseline	2030		2090	
			Low Emissions Scenario (RCP4-5)	High Emissions Scenario (RCP6.5)	Low Emissions Scenario (RCP4-5)	High Emissions Scenario (RCP6.5)
East Sale (NSW/VIC EAST)	T°C	19.8°C	20.8–21°C	20.8–21.2°C	21.7–22.5°C	23–24.6°C
	Rainfall (mm)	611mm	481–543mm	511–531mm	6.4–6.5	6.4–7.3
	Drought Factor (DF)	6	6–6.4	6.1–6.2	0.7–0.9	0.8–1.9
	SE V (Severe Fire Danger Days)	0.5	0.5–0.8	0.6–0.8	0.7–0.9	0.8–1.9
	Cumulative Forest Fire Danger Index	1849	1874–2114	1997–2053	2070–2174	2048–2737

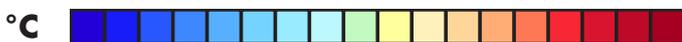
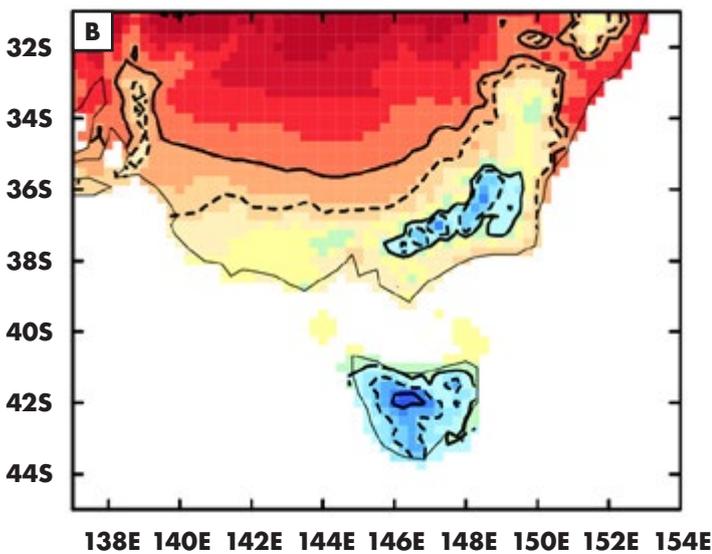
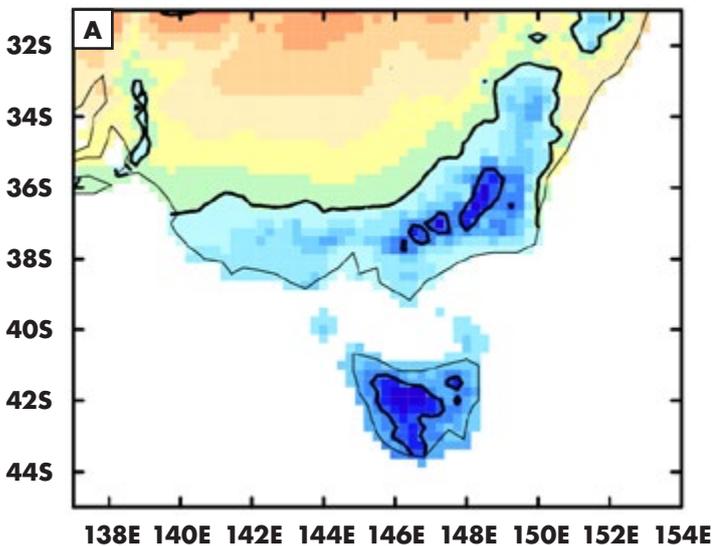
Adapted from (p52) Grose, M. et al., 2015, Southern Slopes Cluster Report, Climate Change in Australia Projections for Australia’s Natural Resource Management Regions: Cluster Reports, eds. Ekstrom, M. et al., CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia.

Bushfire risk will increase, with the number of extreme fire days increasing by up to 25% by 2020, and up to 70% by 2050.



Graph: Annual mean surface air temperature (°C), for the present climate (top), and for warming under a high emissions scenario (RCP8.5) for 2090 (bottom).

Taken from Grose, M. et al., 2015, Southern Slopes Cluster Report, Climate Change in Australia Projections for Australia’s Natural Resource Management Regions: Cluster Reports, eds. Ekstrom, M. et al., CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia.



- Average surface air temperature increases of 0.3 – 1.5°C and increases of 0.3 – 2.0°C in sea surface temperature are projected for seas off the Gippsland coast by 2030 (from a 1990 baseline). A one in 20 year hottest day in 2012 is projected to become about a one-in-three to one-in-five year occurrence by 2055 with more extreme temperature events likely.
- Rainfall trends are uncertain with a decline most likely, however there is an expectation of a modest increase in the frequency of extreme rainfall events by 2055.
- For planning purposes, the maximum projected sea-level rise is about 20 cm in 2030 (compared to a 1990 baseline). An increased risk of flooding events is more likely (given the predicted sea level rises and increased extreme rainfall events).
- Changes in the risk of bushfires can be expected as the climate warms. The frequency of very high and extreme fire danger days is likely to rise 4 – 25 per cent by 2020 and 15 – 70 per cent by 2050.

Infrastructure management

Council has a very large investment in infrastructure assets including roads, drainage, parks, leisure facilities and community buildings, all of which must be properly planned, managed, maintained and renewed. Many of these have implications for aspects of Council's environmental management and performance, including energy consumption, environmental quality and amenity, provision of waste management and environmental health services, and encouragement of healthy and active lifestyles.

Patterns of settlement

The extent and geographic diversity of East Gippsland has produced a pattern of dispersed towns and settlements, often small and widely separated. This means many facilities and services need to be replicated in a number of locations to provide equity of access to all residents.

Integrated planning for sustainability

Improved and integrated models of strategic planning have been developed that enable the various arms of the organisation to play their parts in working towards greater environmental sustainability in their own operations and in the communities they serve. The process of community planning has enabled greater interaction with residents around environmental issues and has shown the extent to which sustainability concepts have been embraced within the wider East Gippsland community.

Community engagement

The Council Plan recognises approaches to community engagement require regular review to ensure an appropriate response to communities' needs and expectations. Many of Council's engagement approaches focus on developing effective working relationships with the community and enhancing residents' capacity to pursue their aspirations.

Economic development

The Growing East Gippsland: East Gippsland Shire Economic Development Strategy; lays the framework for achieving economic outcomes across all sectors of the regional economy whilst recognising the need for a balanced approach based on competing industry demands. It aims to strengthen manufacturing, construction, agriculture / forestry / fishing, retail, health services and tourism, and recognises the importance of maintaining East Gippsland's healthy, natural assets and environment to underpin its attractiveness as a place to visit, live, work and invest. The Growing East Gippsland Strategy supports the concept of appropriate and sustainable development with actions to support these goals.

CHALLENGES

- There is much uncertainty around climate change, and the impacts of more extreme weather events on the community, ecosystems, landscapes and biodiversity. This poses a huge challenge for local government.
- Many of the challenges for developing a more environmentally sustainable East Gippsland are inherent in the discussions above describing the major drivers of change and the trends being experienced in the region.
- In particular, the increasing average age of the population is likely to provide a number of challenges. In addition to growing needs for assistance and demands on services, there may be a reduction in the capacity of community members to work for the environment as volunteers. Organisations such as Landcare and Coastcare/Coast Action make invaluable contributions to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and environmental values, as well as improving the amenity of their localities. A generally older population may not be in a position to carry out the physical work that is often done by these groups or to source funds for projects. This is likely to be an issue in smaller remote communities.
- The lower level of educational attainment in the Shire (relative to the state average) and the lack of tertiary education opportunities are relevant considerations. This may limit the skills available in the workforce and the community to address environmental issues and impede attempts to retain or attracting skilled workers and younger people to the region.
- Adaptation programs will have to be designed to take account of the differing perceptions and levels of awareness of sectors of the community. The uncertainty around climate change and what it means for the local community and environment is difficult to plan for. Adaptation may be incremental (sequences of minor changes that cause little disruption) through to transformational (a complete change from one system to another e.g. land use). In relation to adaptation the key questions to consider are: what are we adapting to? Who or what adapts? How does adaptation occur? How do we monitor and evaluate adaptation action to determine if it is successful?
- The complexity of environmental legislation and the number of agencies involved in environmental and natural resource management also presents challenges, which need to be managed by developing appropriate partnerships.

- Local government's roles and functions have expanded considerably in recent decades, with resultant gaps between the resources needed and those available to maintain and improve infrastructure and services.
- Increased cost pressures associated with managing potential increases in the incidence of hazardous events such as bushfires and inundation, as a consequence of climate change, are likely.
- Care will also be required to ensure that resources are not wasted on pursuing funding opportunities for projects that are not identified as priorities for Council or communities, simply because the funding program is there.
- The absence of some public and commercial services and facilities – particularly public transport and reticulated natural gas (in most areas of the Shire) – may constrain the ability of Council and households to reduce their energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

OPPORTUNITIES

Council has many direct and indirect responsibilities that have implications for environmental sustainability, including:

- management of land such as parks and gardens, roadsides, foreshores and lakeshores
- road construction and maintenance
- design, construction and management of Council buildings and community facilities such as community halls, sports grounds, swimming pools and recreational facilities
- provision of waste management services and facilities
- fleet management, including passenger vehicles and plant
- town and land use planning.

In all of these activities there is an opportunity for the Shire to lead by example.

Possibilities include: adopting new technologies and approaches that help to reduce the use of fuel, power and water; increase energy efficiency; minimising pollution from chemicals and soil erosion; eradicating weeds; reducing waste generation and ensuring that waste management facilities meet best practice standards; and converting green waste into energy or other usable products.

The range of cost pressures being experienced by Council and by residents and businesses provide incentives to reduce energy consumption, conserve scarce resources and reduce waste.

Experience indicates that improving environmental performance frequently decreases ongoing operational expenses, but there is often a capital cost to be borne to achieve these savings. Strategic use of available funding programs will provide opportunities to further increase the sustainability of Council activities and support community groups that occupy or use Shire facilities. Council will also explore mechanisms to encourage cooperative action by householders or groups within the community.

Council has a major role in regulating land use and development, enabling it to introduce planning provisions. For example, policies and overlays that seek to: protect landscapes, biodiversity and other environmental values; avoid inappropriate development of areas subject to natural hazards (bushfires, erosion, salinity, flooding); discourage fragmentation of productive rural land; and encourage the development of compact urban areas that consume less resources.

The Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies a number of areas in which a changing climate may open up new avenues for activity. Those potentially relevant to East Gippsland include:

- Opportunities to grow new crops, extend the production of existing crops and expansion into new production areas.
- New fisheries opportunities, as a result of expected changes in habitat range and populations for pelagic species such as yellow fin tuna and marlin.
- Activities and actions associated with adaptation may increase market opportunities, lead to new products and works that could increase employment and boost regional economies.

In addition, because East Gippsland will retain its comparative climatic advantage over adjoining regions due to a milder summer and winter there is potential for the region to attract additional visitors and extend the tourism season.

A key to achieving progress towards environmental sustainability will be partnerships – with communities, businesses, Aboriginal groups, other regional agencies and higher levels of government. Many individuals, groups and communities, especially in some of the smaller townships and localities, are already motivated and pressing Council for ongoing action. Others are becoming increasingly receptive to the idea of change.

The Gippsland Lakes Sustainable Development Plan and the Gippsland Regional Coastal Plan (both under development) will provide important guidance on the future management of the East Gippsland coast and the Gippsland Lakes.

Implementation

COUNCIL'S ROLE

East Gippsland Shire is responsible for many activities that impact our environment, including waste and recycling services and construction and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads and bridges. It is also the responsible land manager for large areas of public land.

In addition, Council administers the East Gippsland Planning Scheme and enforces state and local laws relating to land use planning and environmental protection. Land use decision-making by Council influences the way our communities develop and the way our environment is shaped. Council also plays a key leadership and advocacy role for the people of East Gippsland.

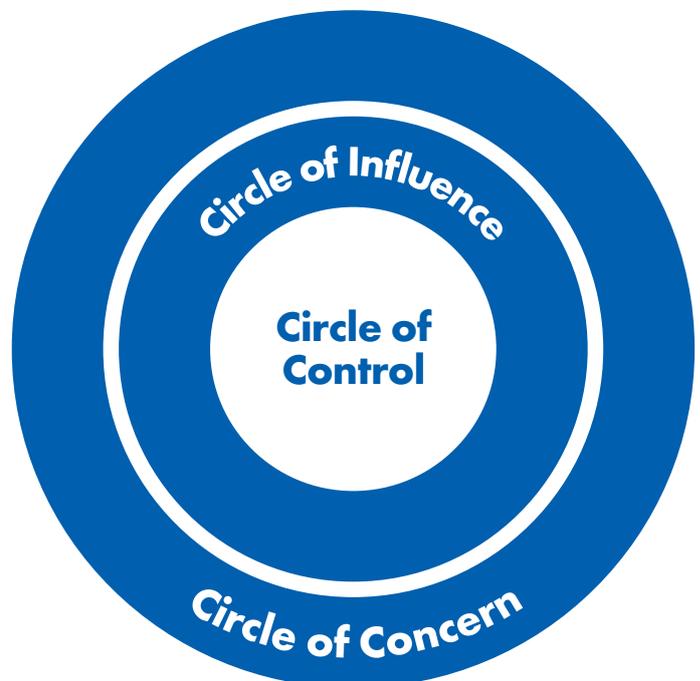
This Strategy contains responses to the drivers, trends, challenges and opportunities outlined, which take account of three distinct spheres of Council activities:

- Areas of direct responsibility where it can act to achieve a desired outcome;
- Regulatory functions that must be exercised in the best long-term interests of the community; and
- Other issues on which Council seeks to exert influence and facilitate beneficial change.

The Strategy focusses on activities within Council's circle of control, influence and concern as illustrated.

Some issues cross the boundaries, such as climate change (concern), with direct control over its own carbon emissions (control) and some influence to assist the community adapt and reduce their own emissions (influence).

Areas in which Council has direct control to undertake change are in Council operations, systems for planning of development, regulation of various activities, and legal and compliance responsibilities.



PARTNERSHIPS

Strong supportive partnerships are a key objective of the Strategy and are highlighted within the key objectives of the Strategy including to 'ensure Council develops new and strengthens existing partnerships to effectively deliver environmental sustainability outcomes'.

East Gippsland is uniquely placed, being the second largest municipality in Victoria (21,051 square kilometres) and with almost 75% of land publicly owned. There are a number of agencies, communities, and businesses involved or interested in environmental and natural resource management. Working together is often referred to as 'how we do business'.

Council needs to ensure the continuation of fostering relationships to support effective partnerships. Better outcomes will be achieved if partners across the region understand values, remove barriers to action and promote a shared responsibility for our environment.

For the most effective outcomes we also need to look beyond our boundary and work with other agencies and networks to support sustainable change.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

Council's corporate planning framework will guide the implementation and evaluation of the Strategy. Progress will be reported via Council's performance reporting software – Cambron. Progress on each action is reported to Council and the community quarterly, providing a snap-shot of progress made towards the action, an indication of whether the action is progressing as expected according to factors such as budget and timeframe, and any additional issues which may impact on progress.

Quarterly Progress Reports are developed to update Council and the community on the status of those commitments and activities that are key to achievement of the strategic goals and outcomes set out in the Council Plan 2013–17. The Strategy focusses on actions that will enable Council to have a direct and positive impact on its local environment, within its area of control and influence. Specifically on areas where Council can advocate, act and/or regulate.

Actions on page 31 are a reflection from the Council Plan 2013–17, Year 2 (2014/15) Action Plan. Resources and funding has been assigned to these actions, progress has commenced and is being reported as outlined above. Business as usual activity is detailed in page 12. The Strategy is a living and evolving document, an annual review will identify key actions for consideration during the development of future Council Plan 2013–17 action planning cycles until 2016/17.

A revised annual Strategy action plan will be developed taking into consideration future year actions, Council's financial capacity, resourcing capabilities, competing demands, partnership opportunities and availability of external grant funding. The annual Strategy review process will provide guidance towards Council's yearly Action Planning process.

A more formal review will occur every four years in line with the development of a new Council Plan.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Providing information to the local community about environmental sustainability issues is recognised as an important tool in 'developing a culture of sustainability' within the community. Effective dialogue and information sharing not only connects the community with Shire activities, but also helps everyone understand what Council can and cannot do.

Communication and engagement, particularly sharing the successes and challenges of activities and actions, will be fundamental to the implementation of this Strategy.

TIMEFRAMES

Year 1 in the Strategy Action Plan refers to the 2014/15 financial year and links directly to Council Plan actions, many actions are multi-year projects and will be delivered over a number of reporting periods. Future year actions will guide Council's yearly Action Planning process.



Action Plan – 2014/15

The Strategy focusses on actions that will enable Council to have a direct and positive impact on its local environment, within its area of control and influence. Specifically on areas where Council can advocate, act and/or regulate.

The below Actions are a reflection from the Council Plan 2013–17, Year 2 Action Plan. Resources and funding has been assigned to these actions, progress has commenced and is being reported as outlined on page 29. Business as usual activity is detailed on page 12.

OUR COMMUNITIES ARE RESILIENT AND ADAPTABLE

Outcome: Communities are aware of their exposure to risk

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Identify land with significant hazards including inundation, bushfire and proximity to landfill, and prepare amendments to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme to guide appropriate development outcomes (Council Plan 1.2.1.2 – People)	Council Plan East Gippsland Planning Scheme	Planning

OUR RESOURCES ARE USED IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Outcome: Council will lead by example in the way we use resources

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Evaluate and implement initiatives to reduce areas of high energy consumption within Council's business (CP 2.1.1.1 – Place)	Council Plan Energy Use Reduction Plan Resource Smart Action Plan	Planning and Service Delivery
Implement water-saving initiatives in key Council facilities (CP 2.1.1.2 – Place)	Council Plan Sustainable Water Use Strategy	Assets and Infrastructure and Planning
Update the Sustainable Water Use Plan to reflect Council's priority actions (CP 2.1.1.3 – Place)	Council Plan Sustainable Water Use Strategy	Planning and Service Delivery
Implement the Bright Futures East Gippsland project as energy efficiency demonstration projects	Council Plan Energy Use Reduction Plan	Planning, assets and Infrastructure and Service Delivery
Implement actions identified within Energy Use Reduction Plan under the following strategies for Council operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce energy use and carbon emissions by at least 10% from buildings, fleet and facilities - Reduce carbon emissions from public lighting by 30% - Provide leadership on energy management 	Energy Use Reduction Plan	Planning and Service Delivery

Outcome: Communities and businesses use resources wisely

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Work with specific industries and businesses to identify resource-saving initiatives and practices (CP 2.1.2.1 - Place)	Council Plan	Partnership and Planning
Participate in delivery of the ResourceSmart Schools program in schools across the region (CP 2.1.2.2 - Place)	Council Plan	Partnership, Planning and Service Delivery

Outcome: Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Implement the Waste Facilities and Disposal Strategy to provide the most suitable and safe waste service model for the region (CP 2.1.3.1 - Place)	Council Plan Waste Facilities and Disposal Strategy	Service Delivery, Assets and Infrastructure
Work with industry to investigate specific waste reduction and re-use opportunities (CP 2.1.3.3 - Place)	Council Plan	Partnership and Planning
Partner with external bodies to divert organic waste from landfills (CP 2.1.3.4 - Place)	Council Plan	Partnership and Planning

LAND USE PLANNING DELIVERS VIBRANT, CONNECTED AND PRODUCTIVE PLACES

Outcome: Our planning system is efficient and reflects community aspirations

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Continue to develop, improve and update the East Gippsland Planning Scheme via development of new policies and incorporation of planning scheme amendments, including: the East Bairnsdale, Eagle Point and Paynesville Structure Plans; Twin River Land Use Plan, Urban Waterway Strategy; Social Impact Assessment; and Infrastructure Design manual into the Planning Scheme (CP 2.2.1.3 – Place)	Council Plan East Gippsland Planning Scheme	Planning
Continue to develop, improve and update the East Gippsland Planning Scheme via updating and correction of overlays including: updating the Erosion Management Overlay (EMO) correcting the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO); correcting the Heritage Overlay; and updating the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) (CP 2.2.1.4 – Place).	Council Plan East Gippsland Planning Scheme	Planning
Finalise the Gippsland Lakes Sustainable Development Plan and commence incorporation into the East Gippsland Planning Scheme (CP 2.2.1.7 – Place).	Council Plan East Gippsland Planning Scheme	Planning

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Outcome: Our infrastructure is efficiently delivered and maintained

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
<p>Finalise the Gippsland Lakes Inundation and Adaptation Management Plan and Lakes Entrance project to pilot appropriate approaches to supporting long-term community adaptation to the impact of climate change (C.P 2.3.2.3 – Place).</p>	<p>National Sea Change Taskforce Reports</p> <p>Gippsland Lakes Inundation and Adaptation Management Plan</p> <p>Communications and Engagement Framework for climate adaptation in the Gippsland East Region</p>	<p>Advocacy, Partnership and Planning</p>



OUR NATURAL ASSETS ARE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED

Outcome: Our environment is maintained for future generations

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Commence Foreshore Management Plans in partnership with other agencies for the Paynesville and Lake Tyers area (CP 2.4.1.2 – Place)	Council Plan Foreshore Management Plans	Partnership and Planning
Complete specific nature conservation projects to manage weeds and preserve areas of high conservation value (CP 2.4.1.3 – Place).	Council Plan East Gippsland Planning Scheme, Foreshore Management Plans, Landbank Management Plans, Roadside Invasive Species Control Plan	Partnership and Planning
Introduce resource reduction and sustainability principles into new and renewed community infrastructure (CP 2.4.1.4 – Place)	Council Plan	Partnership, Planning and Assets and Infrastructure
Undertake three projects to support Council and the community's ability to plan for and understand sustainable adaptation to changing climate conditions (CP 2.4.1.5 – Place)	Council Plan Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan	Partnership and Planning
Develop assets to support native vegetation offsets and landbanking opportunities (CP 2.4.1.6 – Place)	Council Plan	Planning and Assets and Infrastructure

Outcome: Our Shire will lead by example in the way we manage our natural environment and respond to changing environmental conditions

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Participate in research and monitoring projects to provide a foundation for Council's policy and approach to climate change and inundation (CP 2.4.2.1 - Place)	Council Plan	Partnership, Planning and Advocacy
Manage roadside vegetation by streamlining processes for managing vegetation removal requests and introducing Planning Scheme amendments (CP 2.4.2.2 - Place)	Council Plan	Planning, Partnership
Manage our reserves to protect important habitats of native flora and fauna (CP 2.4.2.3 - Place)	Council Plan	Planning, Service Delivery

OUR BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT IS ADAPTABLE AND PROSPEROUS

Outcome: Businesses remain in the region

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Address drainage issues in East Bairnsdale to enable business development (CP 3.1.3.1 - Economy)	East Bairnsdale and Lucknow Structure Plan	Assets and Infrastructure, Planning

EAST GIPPSLAND IS THE PLACE TO VISIT, LIVE, WORK AND INVEST

Outcome: Our places, facilities and services provide a positive experience for visitors

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Improve facilities, infrastructure and support for cyclists (CP 3.3.2.3 – Economy)	East Gippsland Cycle Tourism Plan	Service Delivery
Deliver infrastructure upgrades to the East Gippsland Rail Trail and a Cycling is Good Business program in partnership with industry (CP 3.3.2.4 – Economy)	East Gippsland Trails Strategy	Planning and Service Delivery

SHIRE SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AT AN ACCEPTABLE COST

Outcome: Our reputation enables us to build partnerships and relationships that create mutual benefit

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Work collaboratively with other levels of government to maximise funding opportunities to deliver projects and provide services in a cost-effective and sustainable way (CP 4.1.2.1 – Stewardship).	Victorian State-Local Government Agreement such as MoU	Advocacy and Partnerships
Grow and strengthen relationships with other local, regional, state and federal organisations to leverage Council’s advocacy outcomes on behalf of the local community and the Gippsland region (CP 4.1.2.2 – Stewardship).	Partnership agreements such as MoU	Advocacy and Partnerships

WE MAKE DECISIONS THROUGH TRANSPARENT PROCESSES AND EXECUTE OUR PLANS PRUDENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Outcome: Community and Council have strong mutual understanding and support

Action	Associated documents and programs	What is Council's role?
Provide opportunities for our community to have a say in matters of interest to them through engagement and accessibility to Councillors and staff. (CP 4.2.1.2 - Stewardship).	Council Plan	Advocacy and Partnerships
Improve both internal and external communication at a place based level to engage with the community around high priority place based issues. (CP 4.2.1.3 - Stewardship).	Council Plan	Advocacy and Partnerships



Action Plan – Future Years

The Strategy focusses on actions that will enable Council to have a direct and positive impact on its local environment, within its area of control and influence. Specifically on areas where Council can advocate, act and/or regulate.

As outlined above future year actions will be subject to Council’s financial capacity, resourcing capabilities, competing demands, progress from previous year actions, partnership opportunities and availability of external grant funding. Business as usual activity is detailed on page 12. The annual Strategy review process will provide guidance towards Council’s yearly Action Planning process. Some future year actions will be a direct flow on from previous year actions.

OUR COMMUNITIES ARE CONNECTED AND INCLUSIVE

Outcome: Our communities are well connected

Action	What is Council's role?
Support the development of a Sustainable Transport Strategy for East Gippsland.	Advocacy, Partnerships and Service Delivery
Develop an environmental sustainability guide / information package for Council’s Committees of Management to encourage and support reduced use of energy and resources.	Advocacy and Partnerships

OUR RESOURCES ARE USED IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Outcome: Council will lead by example in the way we use resources

Action	What is Council's role?
Develop regular communication messages and products to engage the community in the overall Strategy outcomes and objectivities, using plain English, and communicating key messages.	Advocacy
Develop a maintenance guide for Council owned and managed wetlands that include regular water quality testing and links to East Gippsland Shire's Asset Management Register.	Assets and Infrastructure
Provide Ecological Sustainable Design advice for East Gippsland Shire new and renewed facility projects i.e. Worksite Consolidation Project.	Assets and Infrastructure
Develop and deliver an environmental sustainable challenge across East Gippsland Shire business units focussing on reducing resources in the office whilst promoting environmental sustainability practices for Council staff to consider implementing at home.	Advocacy
Develop and deliver an environmental sustainable challenge for businesses within East Gippsland focussing on how businesses and communities can use resources wisely.	Advocacy and Partnership
Continue to implement the Bright Futures East Gippsland project as energy efficiency demonstration projects.	Planning, assets and Infrastructure and Service Delivery
Develop an education program for new home builders and renovators focussing on promoting reduced use of energy and resources during construction and outlining longer term benefits i.e. training, how to videos, guidelines for sustainable renovations.	Advocacy
Ensure continued training and accreditation for Council staff and contractors in environmental management, to a high standard and relevant to local issues.	Planning

Action	What is Council's role?
<p>Develop new management plans or incorporate into existing plans “shovel ready” projects to protect and improve native vegetation and other natural values at priority locations i.e. urban waterways, lake and coastal foreshores and bushland reserves within townships. Taking advantage of funding streams or grant opportunities.</p>	<p>Planning and Partnerships</p>
<p>Design road maintenance and improvement and bushfire hazard works to remove the minimum amount of native vegetation necessary and where vegetation removal is necessary, ensure that appropriate environmental offsets are made.</p>	<p>Planning and Assets and Infrastructure</p>

Outcome: Communities and businesses use resources wisely

Action	What is Council's role?
<p>Continue to support sustainable outcomes associated with the East Gippsland Food Map.</p>	<p>Advocacy and Partnerships</p>
<p>Support remote communities to investigate community-based sustainable energy solutions i.e. distributed energy. Identify interested communities via Community Planning Process, provide key learnings from the Mallacoota Sustainable Energy Project and keep well-informed of potential funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Advocacy and Partnerships</p>
<p>Assist industrial businesses to consider potential resource and material efficiencies.</p>	<p>Advocacy and Partnerships</p>

Outcome: Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill

Action	What is Council's role?
<p>Investigate options for managing waste as a resource such as innovative alternative waste solution projects (i.e. waste to energy project) and explore potential funding sources.</p>	<p>Assets and Infrastructure, Planning and Partnerships</p>

LAND USE PLANNING DELIVERS VIBRANT, CONNECTED AND PRODUCTIVE PLACES

Outcome: Our planning system is efficient and reflects community aspirations

Action	What is Council's role?
Further investigate Sustainable Design in the Planning Process (SDAPP) – including STEPS (Sustainable Tools for Environmental Performance Strategy) and SDS (Sustainable Design Scorecard) assessment tools.	Planning
Promote innovative sustainable development at Development Industry Forums; investigate key speakers, training opportunities, and/or local examples.	Planning
Continue to facilitate improvements to the East Gippsland Planning Scheme that support sustainable outcomes.	Planning
Support the outcomes and implementation of the Rural Land Use Strategy.	Planning
Develop specific environmental sustainability guides/tools that further support East Gippsland Shire Planning Scheme Amendment C112 Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area (LENGA).	Planning

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS CURRENT AND FUTURE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Outcome: Our infrastructure is efficiently delivered and maintained

Action	What is Council's role?
Support the implementation of the revised Domestic Wastewater Management Plan that strategically addresses wastewater issues, identifies potential risks and prevents problems.	Planning, Assets and Infrastructure
Further investigate domestic wastewater solutions for the East Bairnsdale Industrial Area.	Assets and Infrastructure, Partnership

OUR NATURAL ASSETS ARE MAINTAINED AND ENHANCED

Outcome: Our environment is maintained for future generations

Action	What is Council's role?
Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and a monitoring and evaluation plan for Strategy actions to determine benchmarks and for measuring impacts.	Advocacy
Investigate Environmental Management System – ISO4001 (accredited) for Council programs, projects, services, plans, and policies.	Advocacy
Continue promotion of biodiversity values via signs, brochures, and information.	Advocacy
Develop promotional materials that explain the benefits of urban wildlife.	Advocacy
Record all native vegetation offset sites that East Gippsland Shire has management responsibility into Asset Management Register.	Assets and Infrastructure
Develop a local policy to ensure that strategic planning and development decision making considers the impact on native vegetation and other environmental values, both on and off site, directly and indirectly.	Planning
Finalise and implement outcomes from the three Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership (VASP) projects that support Council and the community's ability to plan for and understand sustainable adaptation to changing climate conditions.	Planning, Assets and Infrastructure, Advocacy and Partnerships

Outcome: Our Shire will lead by example in the way we manage our natural environment and respond to changing environmental conditions

Action	What is Council's role?
Investigate the development of a Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) policy for Council operations.	Service Delivery and Assets and Infrastructure
Investigate Whole-of-Water-Cycle-Management and "Right Water" and look at integrating into Council projects, align with Victorian Government objectives and programs.	Assets and Infrastructure
Following the development of a detailed design for Jones Bay Nutrient Reduction Project investigate potential funding opportunities for the construction of the wetlands that demonstrates best practice urban stormwater management and improves the quality of the stormwater entering the Gippsland Lakes.	Infrastructure and Assets, Partnerships and Advocacy
Review the Stormwater Management Plan taking into account changes in community expectations and perceptions, advancement within the industry and implementation of best practice environmental management outcomes.	Assets and Infrastructure
Review the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) to further ensure that new infrastructure delivers long term environmental and sustainability outcomes and considers changing environmental conditions.	CP: Assets and Infrastructure and Planning
Continue the protection and enhancement of environmental values on Council owned and managed land.	Assets and Infrastructure
Strengthen partnerships with biodiversity, natural resource management and cultural heritage agencies and groups.	Partnership

WE CONTRIBUTE TO A PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE REGION THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Action	What is Council's role?
Individual actions within the Growing East Gippsland: East Gippsland Shire Economic Development Strategy 2014-18 are supported where appropriate to deliver optimal environmental sustainability outcomes within the overall intentions and principles of the Growing East Gippsland Strategy.	Partnership

SHIRE SERVICES MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AT AN ACCEPTABLE COST

Outcome: Shire services are tailored to community needs

Action	What is Council's role?
Integrate sustainability practices and outcomes into Council's community based services.	Service Delivery and Advocacy

Outcome: Our reputation enables us to build partnerships and relationships that create mutual benefit

Action	What is Council's role?
Continue to work collaboratively with other levels of government to maximise funding opportunities to deliver projects and provide services in a cost-effective and sustainable way.	Advocacy and Partnerships

WE MAKE DECISIONS THROUGH TRANSPARENT PROCESSES AND EXECUTE OUR PLANS PRUDENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Outcome: Our internal processes support good outcomes

Action	What is Council's role?
Develop 'sustainable development assessment' and 'sustainable design checklists' for inclusion in Council's tender documentation and processes.	Service Delivery and Assets and Infrastructure
Further investigate Council's procurement processes to ensure resource efficiency in Council projects and services.	Advocacy and Service Delivery

Contact us

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