



HUME CITY COUNCIL  
**PATHWAYS TO  
SUSTAINABILITY  
FRAMEWORK  
2015-2019**

 [hume.vic.gov.au](http://hume.vic.gov.au)



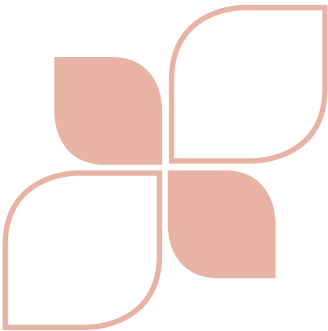
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council acknowledges that we are on Gunung-Willam-Balluk land. The Gunung-Willam-Balluk of the Wurundjeri were the first and original people of this land.





# Introduction

Welcome to the Hume City Council **Pathways to Sustainability Framework 2015-2019 (Pathways)**.

The revised *Pathways* builds on the previous *Pathways to Sustainability: An Environmental Framework 2009-2013*. It seeks to provide clear directions for organising Council efforts that will enable the Hume community to realise its vision to achieve social, environmental and economic outcomes, connecting the community and celebrating diversity. *Pathways* is a key document that guides and informs Council planning, decision-making, actions and activities, strategies and policies across the whole organisation that impact on the environment.

The revised document is based on a combination of:

- Community aspirations and priorities identified in *Hume Horizons 2040* and other community consultations
- Learnings from the implementation of the previous *Pathways to Sustainability: an Environmental Framework and Action Plan*
- Updating Council's knowledge about key trends and issues affecting Council's role and ability to influence environmental outcomes
- Experience of practice from other local government areas.

It provides a set of complementary pathways that will contribute to achieving the community's sustainability aspirations, as outlined in *Hume Horizons 2040*.

*Pathways* is underpinned by the concept of sustainability. There is no simple definition of the term 'sustainability', however, most definitions include:

- Living within the limits of what the environment can provide
- Understanding the many interconnections between economy, society and the environment
- Passing on a healthy environment and fair access to resources for current and future generations.

Integrating environmental considerations into all Council and community activities and working together, will ensure that the natural environment is protected and environmental impacts reduced. The success of *Pathways* will depend on the combined efforts of the individuals and groups - households, local community groups, businesses, industries, non-government agencies, other levels of government, government agencies and Council - that exist or operate within Hume and their capacity to collaborate and achieve a collective impact. The intent of *Pathways* is to highlight, support, complement and activate these efforts.



# Hume’s ecological footprint

The goal of sustainable living is to enable all people everywhere to enjoy a good quality of life within their fair share of the Earth’s resources. The way we measure this is known as an ecological footprint.

If everyone in the world consumed as many natural resources as the average Australian (including those in Hume), three to four planets would be needed to support the world’s population. Council’s challenge is to develop and grow the Hume community at the same time as reducing our footprint. We need to work together as residents, communities, Council, government agencies and businesses to find ways to improve the quality of life for everyone, affordably and fairly, while living within the limits of what the Earth can provide.

## Council’s role

*Hume Horizons 2040* outlines Council’s role in implementing the community’s visions and aspirations as “a representative and an informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of the Hume community.” It further defines this role as one or more of the following:

Council’s Role	Role Definition
Statutory Authority	Council has a legislative responsibility under Victorian law to ensure compliance and delivery of services related to these community expectations.
Service Provider	Council is a leading provider of services which support these community expectations. Responsibility for providing these services is often shared between Council and other government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and commercial businesses.
Facilitator	Council facilitates, partners and plans with other service providers to achieve these community expectations
Advocate	Council’s primary role is to advocate on behalf of (and represent) the community to other levels of government, service providers and business organisations around these community expectations.





These roles have been further refined in the context of the implementation of the four strategic pathways. Consistent with *Hume Horizons 2040*, everyone has a part to play in looking after our environment. Council's role is to:

- Safeguard the environment for current and future generations to share and enjoy,
- Minimise our own ecological footprint (e.g. Council energy, water use and waste generation in buildings, facilities and vehicles; use of renewable energy and alternative water sources; purchase and delivery of environmentally responsible products and services; investing responsibly),
- Use our legislated and regulatory powers to deliver the highest standard of environmental outcomes and protection,
- Lead by example and demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable Hume through our actions, as advocates, responsible employers and as partners with our community,
- Advocate for outcomes that deliver high environmental standards and protection,
- Work in partnership and build strong relationships with our community, government departments and agencies, community organisations and business,
- Engage with and build the capacity of the community and community organisations to understand and care for the environment and minimise their own ecological footprint, and
- Make decisions based on the best available evidence and our learning.



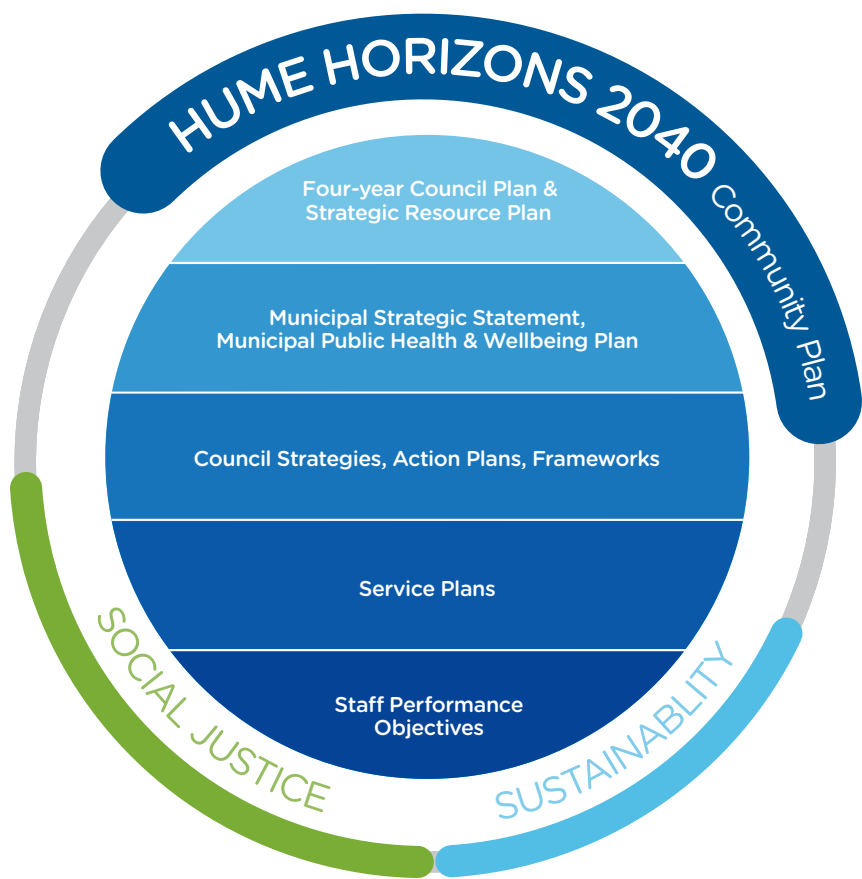
# Framework for environmental planning and decision-making

## Council’s planning framework

Council undertakes planning for the future of the community via a combination of statutory and voluntary strategic documents and processes. The *Hume Horizons 2040* is a plan for the whole community, outlining the long term vision for Hume City. It is the foundation for Council’s corporate planning framework, including *Pathways*.

Council and the community have made a strong commitment to social justice and sustainability, highlighting them as guiding principles that support the implementation of *Hume Horizons 2040*. Council’s commitment to social justice seeks to advance a fair and just society and to promote respect for every citizen, focusing on reducing disadvantage, increasing community participation and well-being. Council’s commitment to sustainability will ensure that social, financial and environmental resources will be used in a fair and transparent and efficient way, that we are living within the limits of the systems on which we depend, and that future generations can also enjoy a good quality of life and fulfil their potential.

It is the interaction of social justice and sustainability through *Pathways* and the many action plans, programs, activities and policies that support its implementation that are key to supporting and achieving the aspirations of the Hume community.





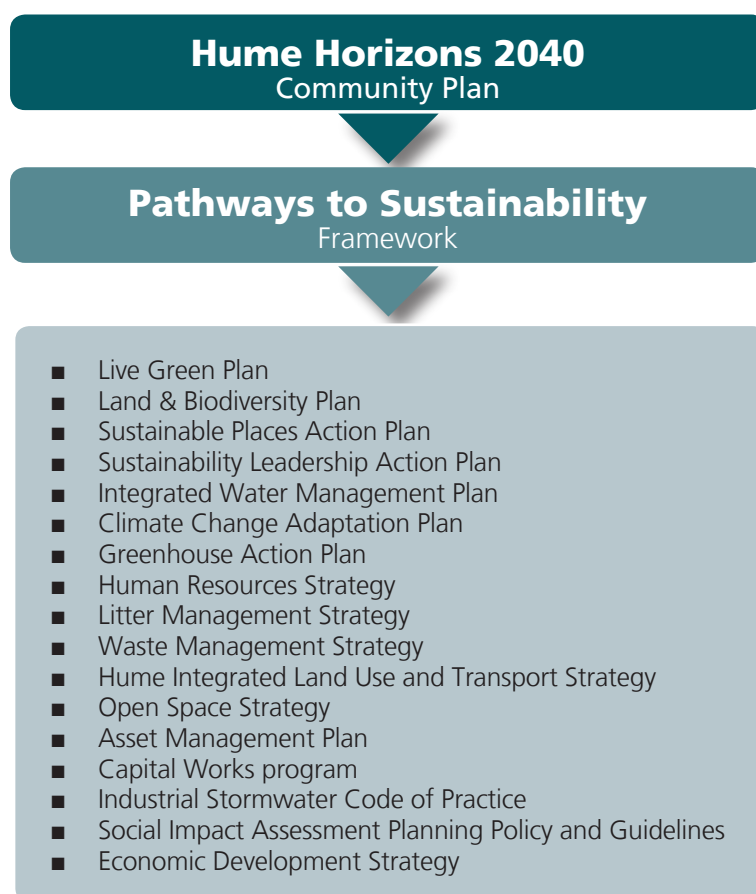
## Planning and decision-making guidelines

The following guidelines are used to assist Council's planning and decision-making on the environment.

1. Where Council has a full role or responsibility for an aspect of environmental management, Council provides leadership in its own activities and:
  - Use its powers to determine or regulate the activities of landowners, residents and businesses; and/or
  - Provide services to support the community, landowners, residents and business to act sustainably.
2. Where Council shares responsibility with other agencies, Council partners, supports or seeks to influence other agencies to develop an environmental solution consistent with *Pathways*.
3. Where Council has no direct responsibility, Council considers the importance of the plan, activity or issue and its impact on the local environment and determine whether there is a case for advocacy or involvement on behalf of the community.
4. Council considers long-term and life-cycle impacts when planning and making decisions and assess each plan or activity against short, medium and long-term risks as well as potential benefits to the environment.
5. Council actively applies the most current and reliable research, knowledge and practice to planning and decision-making. Prevention of environmental degradation is not delayed due to lack of full scientific certainty.
6. Assessment of projects, programs and proposals includes consideration of:
  - The immediate and ongoing impact on Council resources, systems and liability requirements
  - The impact on the current community and future generations
  - Community and stakeholder engagement requirements
  - Integration of financial, social and environmental aspects

## Framework implementation

The aim of *Pathways* is to act as a guiding document for decisions that impact on the environment, across the whole of Council and the community. *Pathways* will inform the development and implementation of a range of strategies, policies, action plans, projects, programs and responsibilities led by different parts of Council. As these documents are reviewed, the extent to which environmental considerations and measures haven't been incorporated, will be reviewed and enhanced where necessary.



## Reporting on progress

Regular information about Council and the community's actions towards improving the environment will be provided through a range of communications (such as articles in local media, Live Green and Re-Source newsletters, Hume City Council's website, Hume Pride etc.). Progress on the implementation of *Pathways* will be through Council's annual Sustainability Report, the Hume City Council Plan reporting, and the annual Hume City Council Annual Report.

Many complex factors influence progress on sustainability and are often outside Council's control (e.g. Federal and State government policy). Progress towards sustainability is also the responsibility of all agencies, business and the community; it is often difficult to measure short-term impacts.

Given this complexity, reporting progress is focused on areas where Council has full responsibility for implementing or facilitating actions or where Council's involvement is sufficient to allow for accurate and verifiable reporting.

A full review of *Pathways* will be conducted in 2019.





# Strategic context

## Profile of Hume’s environment

Hume City is located in Melbourne’s northern growth corridor bordered by the Merri Creek, Maribyrnong River, Western Ring Road, Calder and Tullamarine Freeways, and the foothills of the Macedon Ranges.

The traditional owners of the Hume area are the Wurundjeri or Woiworung peoples, who maintain their connection and custodianship of the land.

The landscape is largely a product of past volcanic activity; mainly basalt overlaying older sediments and granite.

While similar in temperature range, Hume’s climate is significantly drier than municipalities to the south and east and is expected to become drier as a consequence of climate change.<sup>1</sup>

Most of Hume’s original vegetation has been removed for agricultural and urban development. The remaining scattered woodland and grassland remnants are among the most critically endangered vegetation types in Australia.<sup>2</sup>

Despite significant landscape change, habitat degradation and the introduction of invasive species, a number of sites in Hume continue to support both common and threatened native wildlife. Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Black-shouldered Kites are among the more common wildlife species, while less common species include the Platypus and the threatened Growling Grass Frog and Golden Sun Moth.

Approximately 65% of Hume is currently rural land, 25% is urban land and 10% is occupied by Melbourne Airport. A significant proportion of land in Hume provides a Green Wedge set aside to retain and accommodate non-urban character, agricultural and recreational uses and strong landscape and environmental values. Sizeable areas have been set aside for public space, including the state significant Woodlands Historic Park, Mt Ridley Nature Conservation Reserve, Broadmeadows Valley Park and the Merri Creek Parklands.

Challenges for management of land and conservation areas include:

- Managing the interface between conservation areas, urban development, and private rural land, and the ongoing challenge of supporting a productive green wedge
- Widespread invasive plants, and the impacts of invasive animals such as rabbits and foxes
- Increasing soil degradation
- Inappropriate land use practices including illegal native vegetation removal and land filling activities, overgrazing and inappropriate herbicide application, and the impact of major road development
- Water availability, a changing climate, commercial viability and changing populations in agricultural areas
- Additional stresses from climate change.



<sup>1</sup> The Critical Decade, Victorian Climate Impacts and Opportunities, The Climate Commission, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Assessing the effectiveness of Local Government Planning Scheme controls in protecting native vegetation in the Port Phillip and Westernport Region, The State of Victoria, 2009

## Key trends and issues

### Climate change

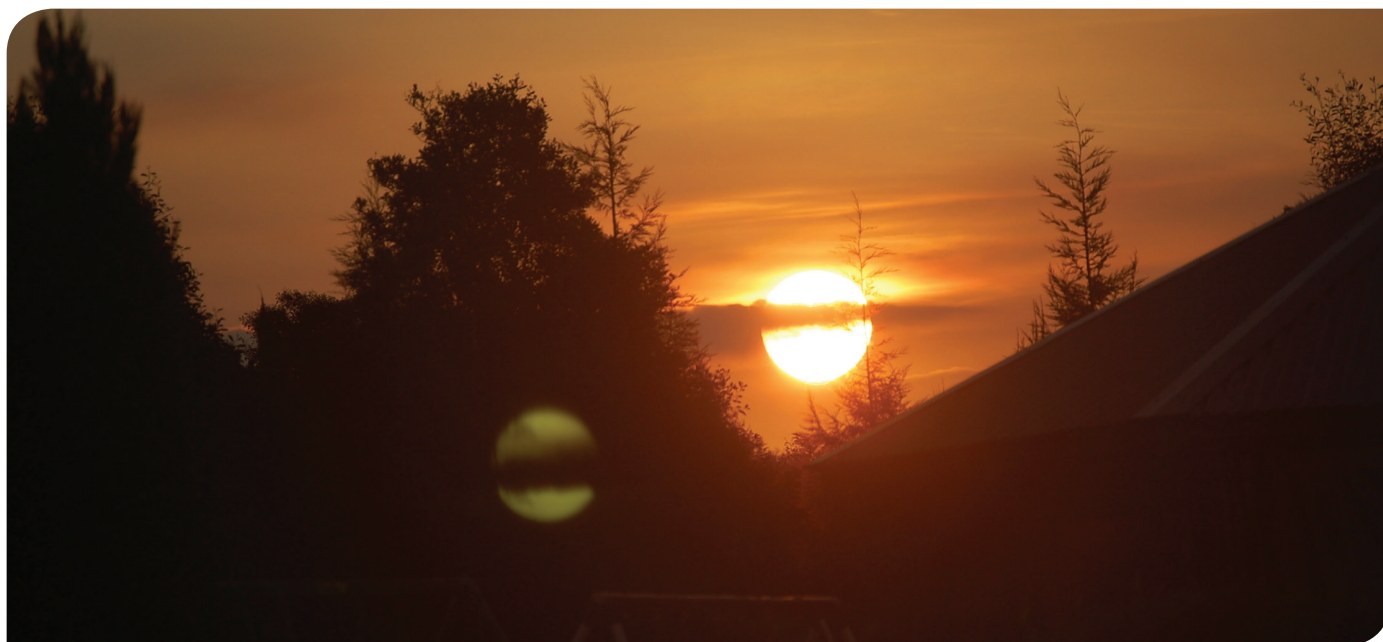
Climate change and its effects are already evident. Hume should expect and be prepared for:

- Hotter, drier conditions. A continuation of the current drying trend and a more frequent recurrence of severe droughts
- An increase in extreme climatic events like heat waves, floods and wildfires
- Deterioration in water quality in waterways as a result of changing inflows (exacerbated by development and increased impermeable surfaces)
- Increased intensity of extreme storm events.<sup>3</sup>

These impacts will involve many challenges for management of our natural environment, community well-being, health and safety, and pose a significant economic burden of infrastructure repair and upgrades, emergency response and recovery, insurance costs and environmental rehabilitation costs.

Threats and risks to Council and the community include:

- Continuing loss of agricultural productivity
- Heat related asset failures (e.g. building cooling systems, road surfaces, etc.)
- Higher rates of infectious and water borne disease as well as increased rates of heat-related stress and mortality (particularly among vulnerable populations)
- Higher peak flows through stormwater systems combined with increased rates of blockage and silting
- Faster deterioration of buildings
- Increased insurance costs
- Deterioration of open space, stress on the natural environment and associated costs
- Impacts on the health and well-being and responsiveness to climate change of vulnerable groups (the elderly, the very young, people with disabilities or chronic illness, people on low incomes, people with poor quality housing, the homeless, new arrivals and those from diverse cultural backgrounds).



<sup>3</sup> The Critical Decade, Victorian Climate Impacts and Opportunities, The Climate Commission, 2013



## Population growth

Hume is one of the fastest and largest growth municipalities in Melbourne and is expected to surpass 300,000 people in the next 20 years.<sup>4</sup>

Population growth brings many social and economic opportunities. However, under current planning laws and urban development practices, with trends towards larger houses, smaller block sizes, increased car dependency and imported food, this growth will have significant deleterious impacts on the natural environment and will subsequently undermine living standards and quality of life.

Population growth pressures include damage to natural areas and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services such as clean air and clean water, increased traffic congestion and continuing unsustainable consumption of materials and food. Communities will be increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and waste will remain a major cost burden to Council and the community.

## Social diversity

A key strength of Hume is its social diversity. More than 30% of residents were born overseas, drawn from some 140 countries of origin, and 41% of residents speak a language other than English at home. This diversity also has challenges for communicating across the municipality and in finding ways to engage for long term behaviour change. In comparison to metropolitan Melbourne, Hume residents are relatively younger in age, while at the same time the overall population is aging, providing a double impact at both ends of the demographic spectrum.

Hume is also the third most disadvantaged Local Government Authority in Metropolitan Melbourne. With many low income families and people with little training and unskilled occupations, Hume's demographic profile shapes Council's approach to social justice.<sup>4</sup>

The design and implementation of environmental programs and actions are consistent with Council's Social Justice objectives and effectively engage the social diversity of the Hume community.

## Economic change

Hume's economy is dynamic and going through significant structural change. This change shows no signs of abating.

Hume is strategically well placed as a key transportation hub with freight and logistics expected to continue to grow. There are also economic opportunities in food, pharmaceuticals, health services and education, while at the same time a decline in the manufacturing and retail sectors and rises in unemployment, particularly among youth.

The Hume workforce is highly car dependent<sup>5</sup> (around a third of Hume residents work in Hume)<sup>4</sup>, and demand for travel is likely to increase with cars and trucks likely to remain the primary mode of transport. This in turns creates greater congestion and increases in greenhouse gases.



<sup>4</sup> <http://forecast.id.com.au/hume>

<sup>5</sup> *Hume Integrated Land Use and Transport Strategy* (2011-2020), Hume City Council, 2011

The broader economy operates in an unsustainable manner, with overuse of resources, waste and pollution impacting on community health and well-being and the natural environment. This threatens the viability of our environment, undermines the sustainability of the economy, impacts on human well-being and Council's objectives for social justice.

In Hume and elsewhere, increasing numbers of businesses see the economic advantages of resource efficiency and a closed loop economy, where economic activity is de-coupled from environmental degradation and business and jobs growth is achieved while reducing per capita fossil fuel and material consumption and waste.

### **Lifestyle values and behaviours**

The choices made by consumers have a profound impact on the environment. The over consumption of resources through the way individuals and communities live is both a local and global issue. Consumption requires resource extraction, production and trade in goods and services sourced from a complex array of local and global inputs (water, energy, minerals, land, forests, etc.), that ultimately end up as waste, a local issue paid for by the community and managed by Council who supply landfill and recycling facilities. Waste generation can be seen as a proxy for how much individuals and whole communities, are consuming.

Energy use is a key component of consumption either through direct fuel and electricity use or indirectly embodied in the things we buy and sell. Energy consumption is largely reliant on fossil fuels and is the major cause of human induced climate change.

Each one of us has the ability to change consumption patterns and shift to more environmentally benign choices, such as switching to renewable energy, sustainable transport, locally grown food, or purchase or use of non-toxic, reusable, and durable products, and via collective consumption. Current high consumption and sedentary lifestyles continue to contribute to a number of physical and mental health issues, many of which affect a great number of Hume residents, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease and social isolation.

### **Complex governance arrangements**

No one agency, business or organisation has full responsibility or control over any aspect of the environment. Council is only one player in a complex system of governance arrangements for resource management, where multiple players often share governance of the same resource. Cross border and cross agency management of natural resources can be problematic, and requires a consistent approach to achieve positive results for the environment.

State and Federal government policies related to the economy, native vegetation removal, urban growth, planning and transport have the most impact on the future of our local environment. Government policy is in turn influenced by community priorities.

Victoria has more than 25 pieces of legislation and some 30 strategies that relate to environmental management. In addition, there are a large number of applicable federal laws (in particular the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) and programs as well as international frameworks and conventions to consider.





## Key messages for Council

### Demonstrate clear leadership

Council aims to be recognised as a leader in environmental protection, management, sustainability and community engagement. This strong commitment and aspiration is demonstrated through resourcing of staff, environmental programs, activities and policy development.

Many local government organisations are taking leadership roles in environmental sustainability, and the leadership bar on sustainability continues to be set much higher. Those that lead typically:

- Are strong champions and advocates both within and beyond their municipal boundaries,
- Consistently adhere to and demonstrate environmental best practice in their direct sphere of influence,
- Set and achieve bold targets/goals to drive change and innovation focused on reducing their own and the community's ecological footprint,
- Develop an organisational culture of sustainability and embed sustainability into all systems, governance, plans and activities,
- Integrate consideration of both short-term and long-term impacts and opportunities into planning and decision-making processes,
- Build sustainability focused relationships, partnerships and initiatives with key stakeholders who together can make long lasting and deep change across the community, and
- Actively engage the community in the importance and urgency of environmental sustainability and make the changes needed easier, accessible and fair.

Council demonstrates elements of these leadership practices; however, to lead it needs to go further. Environmental leadership and social justice go hand in hand, as the disadvantaged and vulnerable in the community are most impacted by poor environmental planning and decision-making. Environmental challenges are also social and economic challenges and can't be separated from dealing with issues of equity and social justice. To achieve significant change Council must integrate environmental thinking in all work with the community, and work with influential leaders and organisations to progress sustainability across the municipality.

Council has an ethical responsibility and the opportunity to integrate and demonstrate best practice environmental management across its diverse operations and services. This is needed to reduce Council's own environmental footprint and to inspire and encourage the Hume community, partners and others to do the same. Hume's advocacy voice and its potential to contribute to structural change will be enhanced by sharing its achievements and learnings through on-ground action.



### **Advocate to achieve community sustainability aspirations**

The sustainability aspirations of the community within *Hume Horizons 2040* cannot be achieved within the confines of current State or Federal policy, regulatory or planning frameworks. Council cannot achieve the necessary changes alone and will need to join with like-minded councils and other community partners to advocate for change.

### **Use partnerships to achieve systems-level change**

Environmental challenges are complex and require a holistic, systems-based approach to achieve meaningful change. Council is just one of many parties working to create a sustainable Hume, so to be most effective, Council needs to use its finite resources strategically. To achieve significant change, Council will continue to work in partnership with a range of individuals, community organisations, government, non-government organisations and business, and help build the capacity of partners to facilitate and achieve systems change.

Council uses a range of approaches to overcoming environmental challenges depending on the situation. At times Council works intensively to build relationships and advocate for change or directly builds the capacity of individuals and organisations to change. At other times Council's role is more indirect, where partner organisations may lead the change.

One of Hume's key strengths is its social diversity. Council will ensure that its approaches build on this strength and meets the needs of Hume's diverse community. The design and implementation of environmental programs and actions will be consistent with Council's social justice objectives and effectively engage the social diversity of the Hume community.

### **Address underlying drivers of sustainability**

Better planning and decision-making will come from better and broader understanding of the key drivers underpinning environmental sustainability.

Climate change presents significant risk to the community. Council must continue to engage the community in its impacts and implications as well as take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.

At the heart of all environmental challenges is a profound disconnect from nature, over consumption, inequitable distribution of finite resources and a legislative and regulatory framework that often diminishes the value of the natural environment and works against best practice environmental protection.

Council's response to the implications of population growth on the natural environment and how to ensure that improving living standards can be met whilst not damaging the environment upon which it depends must be one of leadership, advocacy and influence.





# STRATEGIC PATHWAYS

## Pathway 1: Demonstrate sustainability leadership

Sustainability leadership requires a consistent, whole-of-Council approach shared between all members of Council and our community. As sustainability leaders, our planning and decision making are guided by our commitment to a sustainable Hume and our desire to minimise our environmental impact. We support and empower staff to embed sustainability considerations into their day-to-day decisions and actions. Our commitment to sustainability is active and evident across the suite of Council services.

Where Council has responsibility for managing the environment, sustainability considerations will guide Council decisions, planning and actions, acting as a role model for the community and business. Where Council does not have direct responsibility, we will seek to influence the decision-making of others and advocate on behalf of the community to improve environmental outcomes.

<b>Principles of Sustainability Leadership</b>	<p>Strong champions and advocates both within and beyond their municipal boundaries.</p> <p>Consistently adhere to and demonstrate environmental best practice.</p> <p>Bold targets/goals to drive change and innovation focused on reducing our own and the community's ecological footprint.</p> <p>An organisational culture of sustainability where sustainability is embedded into systems, governance, plans and activities.</p> <p>Sustainability focused relationships, partnerships and initiatives with key stakeholders who together can make larger scale and long term change.</p> <p>Actively engage the community on the importance and urgency of environmental sustainability and making the changes needed easier, accessible and fair.</p> <p>Integrated planning and decision-making based on consideration of both short-term and long-term impacts and opportunities.</p>
<b>What will a sustainable Hume look like?</b>	<p>Council priorities of social justice, sustainability and sound economic management considered and balanced in all planning and decision making processes.</p> <p>Sustainability considerations embedded in Council processes, policies, strategies and practices as business as usual.</p> <p>Planning and decision making based on both immediate needs and the long term.</p> <p>Past performance informs future planning and practice.</p> <p>Hume is an employer of choice based on commitment to and demonstration of sustainability.</p> <p>Environment and sustainability leaders across Council and the community engage, advocate and act.</p>
<b>Council's Role</b>	<p><b>Facilitator, Advocate</b></p> <p><b>Lead by example:</b> through our actions, engagement and support.</p> <p><b>Demonstrate:</b> consistent environmental best practice; sustainability considerations in all Council programs and projects and enforce compliance where necessary.</p> <p><b>Advocate:</b> for the community to government, non-government and business stakeholders for improved environmental outcomes.</p> <p><b>Engage:</b> all members of Council and the community to contribute to a sustainable Hume.</p> <p><b>Empower and support:</b> our staff and community to continue their active commitment to a sustainable Hume.</p>
<b>2040 Goal</b>	<p>Hume recognised as a sustainable city, operating within the limits of what the Earth can provide, and providing leadership and inspiration to the community, business and government and non-government stakeholders.</p>
<b>Who will deliver this?</b>	<p><b>Council:</b> Councillors, CEO, Executive Management Team, Senior Management Team, Organisation and Community Learning Division, City Governance and Information Division, Green Team, Sustainable Environment Department, Human Resources Department.</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Hume Sustainability Taskforce, Enviro Champions.</p>
<b>How will we deliver this?</b>	<p><i>Pathways to Sustainability Strategy, Human Resources Strategy, Enviro Champions program, Live Green Work Green program, Council planning and reporting process, Hume Horizons 2040, Hume City Council Plan, Live Green Plan.</i></p>

## Pathway 2: Support the community to live and work sustainably

Council has a role to help the community to reduce their ecological footprint through helping households, businesses and community organisations to use resources such as energy and water, more efficiently, choose more efficient transport options, increase the growing of food locally, and eliminate waste.

To achieve significant reductions in Hume’s ecological footprint, initiatives and solutions must make it easy, attractive, and affordable for people to lead happy and healthy lives within a fair share of the earth’s resources.

This is a highly complex challenge that requires an approach that engages other partners and our community. Council takes a collective impact approach to working with the community within current resourcing, through joint approaches with partners, basing decisions on evidence and measuring results, focusing on shared/multiple outcomes and building relationships.

<b>Principles of Living and Working Sustainably</b>	Healthy people in a healthy environment connected with nature. Closed loop economy, minimal waste, zero waste to landfill. Resource efficient solutions, lifestyles and behaviours. Intergenerational equity, affordable and accessible solutions. Low carbon and energy efficient. Localised food and minimal food waste.
<b>What will a sustainable Hume look like?</b>	Sustainable living and lifestyles become mainstream. Hume’s community eco-footprint reduced to a sustainable level simultaneously with improved quality of life.
<b>Council’s Role</b>	<b>Service Provider, Facilitator, Advocate</b> <b>Lead by example:</b> through our work with partners and the community, through communicating widely and celebrating the role of sustainability in a healthy and prosperous community. <b>Demonstrate:</b> promote sustainable living and working across Council’s work/operations. <b>Advocate:</b> across Council and with partners to embed sustainability into community capacity building plans, policies and programs. <b>Engage:</b> design and implement targeted capacity building programs and activities in partnership with the community, business, government and non-government organisations. <b>Empower and support:</b> support systems approaches with external and Council partnership; continue to develop knowledge and understanding about the Hume community and best practice engagement.
<b>2040 Goal</b>	Hume community as a whole living and working sustainably.
<b>Who will deliver this?</b>	<b>Council:</b> Sustainable Environment , Social Development, Economic Development, Aged Services and Public Health (Healthy Together Hume), Learning Community, Services (Waste Management), Marketing & Communications. <b>Community:</b> Enviro Champions, Hume Sustainability Taskforce, other community organisations, groups and individuals, government agencies, Non-Government Organisations and business.
<b>How will we deliver this?</b>	<i>Live Green Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Enviro Champions program, Urban Biodiversity Program, Litter Management Strategy, Waste Management Strategy, Hume Integrated Landuse And Transport Strategy, Integrated Water Management Plan.</i>



### Pathway 3: Provide strong environmental stewardship

Healthy ecological systems provide clean water, clean air, climate protection, environmentally healthy and productive waterways, land, groundwater and food, and support biodiversity. They also have a positive influence on human health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, and provide opportunities for recreational activities that promote healthy living and social connection. The natural environment supports a connection to place and identity, and the community, particularly the rural and Indigenous communities of Hume, derive a sense of place in relation to the environment.

The health of the natural environment helps to sustain the tourism and agricultural economy of Hume, fostering and supporting tours, festivals, and a wide range of social activity throughout the year.

Hume has a long history of environmental stewardship, protecting and enhancing areas of high natural value, protecting sites of natural and cultural significance and collaborating with the community and stakeholders to act as environmental stewards. The future will present a range of opportunities and challenges in response to the impacts of climate change, increased population and urban growth. These include finding community-owned solutions to reduced water availability and quality, increased erosion, pest plants and animals, and pressures on native flora and fauna.

Council's response to these ongoing opportunities and challenges relies on a continuing, active and demonstrated commitment to the management and protection of natural resources, including through service delivery, application of statutory and strategic planning and regulatory powers, capital works and infrastructure, asset management, and community and stakeholder engagement.

<b>Principles of Strong Environmental Stewardship</b>	<p>Biodiversity values are protected and enhanced to achieve a net gain in quality, extent and connectivity of conservation assets within the municipality.</p> <p>Risks to both short and long term ecosystem health and landscape values are factored into planning and decision making.</p> <p>The community is engaged in and supported to manage land sustainably and connect with the natural environment.</p> <p>Non-compliance with environmental regulations are pursued via education and/or legal approaches.</p> <p>Natural assets are valued/included as part of Council's asset management systems and procedures.</p> <p>Conservation assets are well integrated within the built environment and the community is able to access and enjoy these spaces.</p>
<b>What will a sustainable Hume look like?</b>	<p>Landscapes and ecosystems are biodiverse, connected, resilient, productive and valued by the community.</p> <p>No indigenous species or ecological communities become locally extinct within the municipality.</p> <p>Strongly collaborating and active land managers and agencies.</p> <p>Developers incorporating sound biodiversity protection measures as business as usual.</p>
<b>Council's Role</b>	<p><b>Statutory Authority, Service Provider, Facilitator, Advocate</b></p> <p><b>Lead by example:</b> effective sustainable land management on Council owned and managed land.</p> <p><b>Demonstrate:</b> our commitment to environmental protection through our approach to education, and where necessary, regulatory enforcement.</p> <p><b>Advocate:</b> for improved protection and management of public and private land via planning instruments and other mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Engage:</b> the community in understanding the natural assets within Hume and build their capacity to conserve, protect and connect with nature.</p> <p><b>Empower and support:</b> staff to develop a greater understanding of and expertise in protecting and managing the natural assets of Hume.</p>
<b>2040 Goal</b>	<p>Resilient landscapes providing clean air, water and soil.</p> <p>Natural habitats/assets are protected for current and future generations.</p> <p>Rural areas are productive and sustainably managed.</p>
<b>Who will deliver this?</b>	<p><b>Council:</b> Sustainable Environment , Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Urban Places, Parks &amp; Open Spaces, Leisure &amp; Youth Services, Economic Development, Social Development, Aged Services &amp; Public Health, City Infrastructure Division.</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Schools, businesses, land managers, community members and community groups.</p>
<b>How will we deliver this?</b>	<p><i>Land &amp; Biodiversity Plan, Open Space Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Asset Management Plan, Capital Works program, Live Green Plan, Urban Biodiversity Program, Hume Planning Scheme, Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Integrated Water Management Plan, Rural Landowner Engagement Plan, Pest Animal Action Plan, Planning and Environment Act 1987, Hume's Places.</i></p>

## Pathway 4: Create sustainable places

Urban development within Hume is a major issue that impacts on the social, environmental and economic fabric of the community. The built form contributes enormously to the ecological footprint of the community and impacts on community interactions, economic activity, access to services, protection of natural areas and the interface between the natural environment and development.

In recent years, Council has been improving its practice in this area, influencing the lay-out of new developments and re-developments, and considering biodiversity in urban growth frameworks.

Council is itself a major developer of community facilities and infrastructure, and as a result has a responsibility to ensure development occurs along Environmentally Sustainable Design and Development (ESD) principles. As a regulatory authority, Council is in a position to influence the work of developers, government and community so that ESD principles are embedded into new developments and re-development projects.

Demonstrations of sustainable places within Hume, developed according to ESD principles and intrinsically linked to the natural environment will be increasingly important as our community continues to grow. We will continue our commitment to building high quality, highly comfortable buildings with a low environmental impact and resilience to a changing climate. We will also advocate on behalf of our community for sustainable planning processes and work with the community to build support and a demand for sustainable community development.

<b>Principles of Create Sustainable Places</b>	Planning and facilitation of sustainable communities where local employment, recreational opportunities and use of sustainable transport are supported and biodiversity values are conserved and enhanced. Application of Environmentally Sustainable Design and Development (ESD) principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Optimise size, multi-purpose and use of existing buildings including integration with the natural environment and design for sustainable transportation</li><li>▪ Optimise energy use, passive solar and renewable energy sources</li><li>▪ Protect waterways and use water efficiently</li><li>▪ Use environmentally preferable products</li><li>▪ Enhance indoor environmental quality</li><li>▪ Optimise operational and maintenance practices</li></ul> Design for resilience and adaptation to the current and future impacts of climate change.
<b>What will a sustainable Hume look like?</b>	Developers follow best practice ESD principles as business as usual. All new Council buildings demonstrate a high standard of ESD performance and are resilient to climate change impacts Existing Council buildings are retrofitted to increase energy and water efficiency. Hume street-scapes and public places are vibrant and valued places with good tree canopy cover, water sensitive urban design and are climate resilient. The community (particularly people vulnerable to climate change) is well supported to increase the energy and water efficiency, the comfort and weather-proofing of their homes. Planning laws and guidance support development that reduce environmental impacts, encourages sustainable living and improves comfort and liveability for inhabitants. Strong community demand for sustainable places.
<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Statutory Authority, Service Provider, Advocate</b> <b>Lead:</b> by example in Council buildings, infrastructure and public realm developments. <b>Demonstrate:</b> effective use of planning mechanisms to facilitate ESD, sustainability and climate resilience principles via strategic planning documents, subdivision approvals and planning permit applications. <b>Advocate:</b> for improvements to planning legislation that support ESD, sustainability and climate resilience principles and practice. <b>Engage:</b> the community in effective consultation and participation. <b>Empower and support:</b> support systems approaches within Council and with partners.
<b>2040 Goal</b>	All place-based developments operate according to ESD, sustainability and climate resilience principles with a long-term outlook.
<b>Who will deliver this?</b>	<b>Council:</b> Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning, Sustainable Environment, Urban Places, City Infrastructure Division, City Communities Division. <b>Other:</b> Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA).
<b>How will we deliver this?</b>	<i>Hume Planning Scheme, Capital Works Program, Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Greenhouse Action Plan, Integrated Water Management Plan, Health and Well-being Plan, Hume Integrated Landuse And Transport Strategy, Social Impact Assessment Planning Policy and Guidelines, Industrial Stormwater Code of Practice.</i>





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