

Mount Alexander Shire Council

Environment Strategy 2015-2025

Task Schedule

Key strategic tasks

Schedule and indicative initiatives

Mount Alexander Shire Council's Environment Strategy 2015-2025 is a succinct and strategic document that has a long timeframe of ten years. The Environment Strategy lists a number of key strategic tasks.

The specific actions called for in the Environment Strategy, along with their expected completion dates, are listed here:

- Develop a Strategic Plan for urban waterways in Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton (2017-2018)
- Develop and implement a Sustainable Water Use Plan (2016-2017)

- Develop and implement a new Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan (2015-2016)
- Develop and implement a Public Open Space Strategy (2015-2016)
- Develop and implement the Climate Change Action Plan (2015-2016)
- Establish a local government natural environment regional alliance (2015-16)

Other key strategic tasks in the Environment Strategy have less tangible outputs and are ongoing. These tasks are listed below alongside an anticipated delivery timeline and indicative initiative for 2015-2016.

Partnerships: Priority Area 1 and 2

Priority Area in the Environment Strategy	Key Strategic Task	Delivery timeline	Indicative initiatives for 2015-16 (where Key Strategic Tasks are identified as 'ongoing')
Partnerships			
1	Continue to provide financial support to community groups, for example through the annual Community Grants Program	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community grants program will launch in January 2016 with \$21,000 for natural environment grants and \$20,400 for sustainability grants
1	Develop and implement community engagement and behaviour change programs and initiatives	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sustainable Living Workshop Series will continue for 2016 with 9 workshops being delivered during the calendar year across a range of topics. As a component of the honeycomb Bushland Reserve environmental Management Plan Council will implement a community education campaign regarding illegal dumping of garden waste from neighbouring residential properties. Council will commence a thorough community engagement plan for the development of the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan and the Climate Change Action Plan. As part of the Lighting the Regions streetlight project residents have been encouraged to replace their own lights with LEDs leading to cost and greenhouse gas savings.
2	Continue membership of the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will contribute \$3500 to the Group this financial year for the development of community education. Council Officers will contribute to the Technical Officers Working Group and the Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan Working Group.
2	Continue membership of Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will contribute \$8500 to the Alliance this financial year for the development of projects and other services. The Director Sustainable Development will continue to sit on the CVGA Board.

Positions: Priority Area 3 and 4

Priority Area in the Environment Strategy	Key Strategic Task	Delivery timeline	Indicative initiatives for 2015-16 (where Key Strategic Tasks are identified as 'ongoing')
Positions			
3	Develop policy and/or position statements relating to key issues	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will prepare a rubbish and recycling policy to bring consistency to the collection of domestic waste, public litter bins and the provision of bins for community buildings, grounds and events. Council will prepare a Climate Change Position Statement.
3	Use statutory responsibilities to influence better sustainability and natural environment outcomes	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers will contribute to the natural environment-related components of the Rating Strategy Review (i.e. the Land Management Rate, the Trust for Nature Rebate.)
3	Advocate to the State and Commonwealth Governments	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will contribute to the review of the Environment Protection Authority, the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria), and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning review of the native vegetation permitted clearing regulations.
4	Identify, rank and reduce the significant environmental impacts of all Council projects and services	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council will place more focus on planning referrals regarding the consideration of native vegetation. Council will bolster the integration of sustainability in procurement policies and optimise the size and management of the vehicle fleet.

Positions: Priority Area 4 and 5

Priority Area in the Environment Strategy	Key Strategic Task	Delivery timeline	Indicative initiatives for 2015-16 (where Key Strategic Tasks are identified as 'ongoing')
4	Utilise internal sustainability and environment expertise particularly at project scoping stages	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers will ensure regard for native vegetation in infrastructure pre-commencement meetings and on-site meetings. Tender development for works over a certain threshold amount will include specific input of sustainability and environmental expertise.
4	Enable and encourage staff to fully consider sustainability and environment matters	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's internal environment group the Greenteam will undertake behaviour change activities.
5	Implement the Sustainable Procurement Policy	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement will be conducted in accordance with policy.
5	Continue to improve resource efficiency, including energy efficiency, across Council operations	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A \$60,000 solar array is being investigated for the Phee Broadway and Library precinct as part of the capital program. The organisation will enter into a new electricity contract, and will investigate procuring renewable power. The energy efficiency of buildings will continue to be improved.
5	Undertake independent benchmarking of Council practices	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste audits will be undertaken for domestic waste and public litter bins. A National Australian Built Environment Rating System audit will be undertaken for both the Civic Centre and the Town Hall buildings.

Priority Area in the Environment Strategy	Key Strategic Task	Delivery timeline	Indicative initiatives for 2015-16 (where Key Strategic Tasks are identified as 'ongoing')
Programs			
6	Implement the Castlemaine Waste Management Facility Master Plan	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cells 7 and 5 will be capped 2015-2016 in accordance with the Master Plan.
6	Maximise the diversion of waste from landfill, including organic waste	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a component of Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan community engagement, Council will canvas the community's views on green waste and organic waste collection services.
7	Implement recommendations from the Rural Land Study	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities will be explored to complete this work.

Programs: Priority Area 7 and 8

Priority Area in the Environment Strategy	Key Strategic Task	Delivery timeline	Indicative initiatives for 2015-16 (where Key Strategic Tasks are identified as 'ongoing')
7	Develop and implement site specific environmental management plans for priority assets	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Honeycomb Bushland Reserve Environmental Management Plan will be completed 2015-2016.
7	Review and amend the planning scheme	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A planning scheme review amendment is due to be gazetted in the coming months. This includes important changes that address the natural environment.
8	Implement the Regional Climate Adaptation Plan	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the State Government, the CVGA and allied councils to deliver the current project focused on building the resilience of vulnerable community members to heatwaves.
8	Through relevant planning manage and minimise the impacts on Council and the community from heatwaves, fires, floods and other extreme weather events	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Municipal Emergency Heatwave Response Sub Plan, Municipal Flood Emergency Plan and Municipal Fire Management Plan will be updated and reviewed.