Engagement Report

Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031

March 2026

Contents

1 Introduction....3
2 What we did....3
2.1 Engagement and Reach....5
3 What we were told - Your Say Page....5
3.1 Your Say Survey Participants....6
3.2 Your Say Survey Feedback Results....7
4 What we were told - Consultation with community groups....12
4.1 Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates....12
4.2 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC)....13
4.2 Direct Written Responses....13
5 What we were told - Café Consult at Maroondah Festival....14
6 What we were told - Library Pop Ups....16
7 Recommendations....18
8 Appendices....19
Appendix 1: Comments from the Your Say Page Survey....19
Appendix 2: Feedback from the Your Say Visioner Board....35
Appendix 3: Direct Written Response....37
Appendix 4: Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Consultation....40

1 Introduction

Climate change is already impacting Maroondah. Preparing for the expected impacts of climate change is essential to achieving the community vision outlined in Maroondah 2050:

> *Maroondah is a safe, inclusive and vibrant community, striving for a green, prosperous and sustainable future for all.*

The Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 presents a roadmap for how Council will:

1. Reduce Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions
2. Prepare Council operations and services for the impacts of climate change
3. Support the Maroondah community to prepare for the impacts of climate change, including reducing community emissions

Community consultation for the Draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 was conducted between 7 November to 12 December 2025 to understand the community priorities in addressing climate change across both Council operations and the wider Maroondah community.

694 individuals provided feedback throughout the consultation period, including via the Your Say webpage, Maroondah Festival Café Consult, library pop us, Council's advisory committees, and direct consultation with Wurundjeri.

74% of respondents were either very or extremely concerned about climate change, demonstrating a clear expectation for Council to address climate change. There was also general support (66-70%) across all outcome areas of the Draft Climate Change Plan.

Feedback from the comment box in the Your Say survey fell into three main categories:

1. The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and/or Council should push for net zero as soon as possible
2. The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action
3. Climate change is not an issue and/or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

As Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Climate Action Act 2017*, consultation was not seeking opinions on whether Council should address climate change, nor the legitimacy of climate science.

This Engagement Report provides a summary of all feedback received and Council's response to feedback.

2 What we did

Consultation for the Draft Climate Change Plan was launched on Council's Your Say page for 6 weeks from Friday, 7 November to Friday, 12 December 2025. The Your Say page included a copy of the Draft Climate Change Plan, a short survey about the plan, and a series of frequently asked questions and other relevant documents. Participants were also invited to post a small action they are currently taking to address climate change in their own lives.

Given climate change is expected to impact the whole Maroondah community, consultation was targeted at anyone who “lives, works or plays” in Maroondah, including all ages and backgrounds.

The Your Say page was promoted through various Council channels, including newsletters, social media, at customer service centres, the Maroondah Festival, and pop-ups and library story times at both Croydon Library and Realm. Local community groups were also contacted directly via email to encourage a response to the Your Say Page survey given the important role of community groups in preparing a climate-ready Maroondah. Postcards promoting the survey were also left at community venues, including CRISP nursery and community centres.

Questions included in the Your Say page survey included:

1. What is your age group?
2. How are you connected to Maroondah?
3. Are you providing a response on behalf of a group or organisation?
4. How concerned are you about climate change?
5. How much support do you have for the proposed three outcomes of the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031? (Strongly support, support, neutral, oppose, strongly oppose)
6. Please provide any comments about the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031
7. What would you like more information on? (Transport other than my car, reduce energy bills, navigating worries about climate change, prepare for extreme weather or power outages, advice for solar or energy efficient appliances, gardening and growing food)
8. If you would like information on a topic not listed above, please list it here
9. How would you like Council to provide information
10. Would you like to be kept updated on this project and similar future consultations?

Pop up consultations were conducted at Maroondah Festival Café Consult, Croydon Library, and Realm. These pop-ups provided community members with the opportunity to talk to a Council officer about the draft Climate Change Plan and answer two questions:

1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. What would you like more information on? (Select 3 options)
    a. Transport other than my car
    b. Reduce energy bills
    c. Navigating worries about climate change
    d. Prepare for extreme weather or power outages
    e. Advice for solar or energy efficient appliances
    f. Gardening and growing food

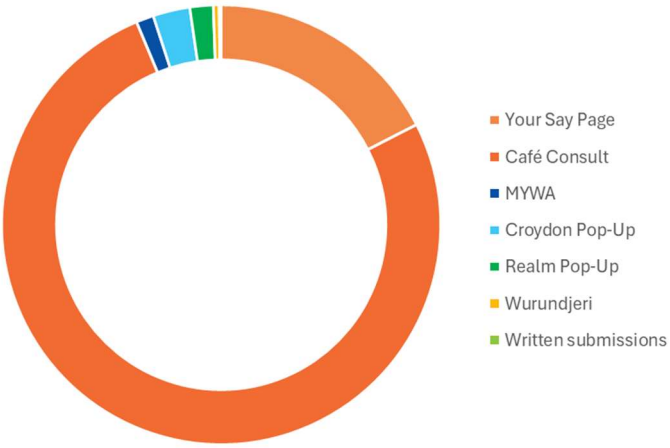
Council officers attended a Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates meeting during the consultation period to capture feedback from young people in Maroondah. Other Council advisory committees, including Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, Maroondah Livability, Safety and Amenity Advisory Committee, Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee, Maroondah Community Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee, and Maroondah Inclusion, Accessibility and Equity Advisory Committee were consulted on development of the draft plan between May and June 2025. These committees are made up of representatives from community groups, organisations and businesses, as well as Maroondah residents. Advisory committees were involved in workshops focusing on Outcome Area 3 and provided feedback on how Council could best support the Maroondah community to reduce emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Notification of the public consultation period was provided to advisory committee members in November 2025.

Council officers also participated in a Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation consultation session with Wurundjeri Aunties in December 2025.

2.1 Engagement and Reach

Almost 700 people and organisations provided feedback on the draft climate change plan during the Plan's consultation period. This includes:

- Your Say page survey: 122 responses
- Café Consult, Maroondah Festival: 532 people
- Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates: 9 people
- Croydon and Realm Library pop ups: 31 people
- In person consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Aunties
- Direct written submissions: 1



Unfortunately, a social media ad campaign was blocked by Meta (Facebook and Instagram) as climate change was considered too political as a topic, despite the best efforts by the Communications Team. This significantly reduced the online reach and promotion of the consultation and, by extension, reduced the number of responses received.

Communication channels promoting the consultation include; Council website banners and page pop ups, various Council online newsletters, displays and seed paper postcards at Council service centres and facilities, organic (unpaid) social media posts, Council customer service messages on hold, Maroondah News printed publication, and Mayoral community update video.

3 What we were told - Your Say Page

Feedback was primarily sought through responses to a survey on the Maroondah City Council Your Say Page. The survey was promoted broadly across Council channels and publications. Survey responses were received throughout the consultation period with results summarised below.

The Your Say Page provided an opportunity for users to leave a comment about "what you are already doing to help, make a pledge or you can 'like' a comment you support from other folks below". This was an open form noticeboard that allowed anonymous submissions and was intended to connect the dots between small actions taken on a day-to-day basis throughout the community and the role of Council in supporting local climate action. Comments included:

- Share experiences with changing to an all-electric, efficient home to show others how to cut their energy bills.
- We have installed solar panel and feel that the rebate for that power is just not enough. We are unable to afford a battery at the moment
- To reduce energy use in winter we wear warmer clothes and use knee blankets rather than turn on heating and use ceiling fans in summer.
- Recycle bath water
- Handheld hose watering only
- Pull out weeds - no poison spraying

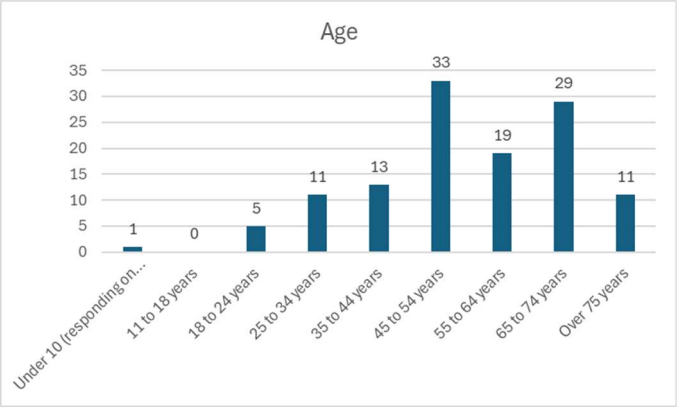
- Plant bird and insect attracting plants
- I ride my bike or walk to the shops so I don't have to drive my car
- I am planting as many native plants in our garden as I can, to give birds, bees, butterflies and insects; shelter and water.
- I put my heater on 19 degrees in winter and wear cosy clothes, and my cooler on 27 degrees on hot days and wear breezy clothes.
- I shut my curtains on hot days during the day

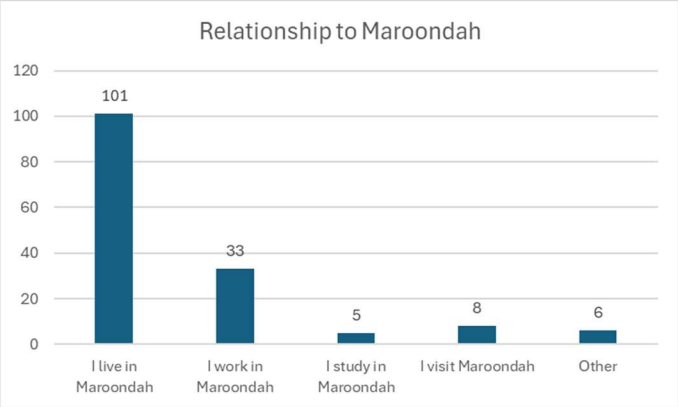
These responses demonstrate that many in our community are already doing small things every day to live more sustainably.

The comment section was also used by some community members to provide specific feedback of how Council should be responding to climate change rather than through the survey. These have been included in Appendix 2.

3.1 Your Say Survey Participants

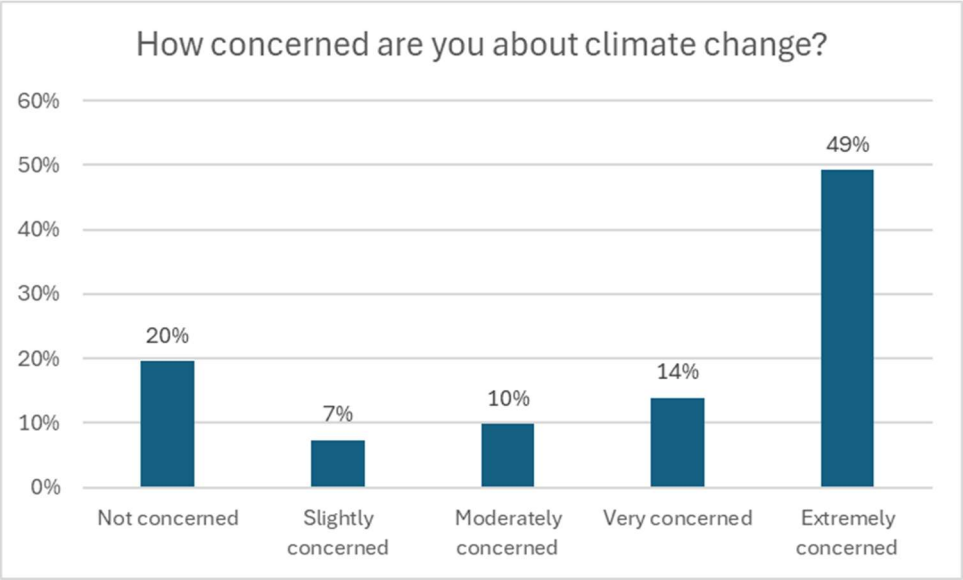
122 survey responses were received, including 5 responses from organisations active within Maroondah. The age range of survey participants and their relationship to Maroondah is detailed below:





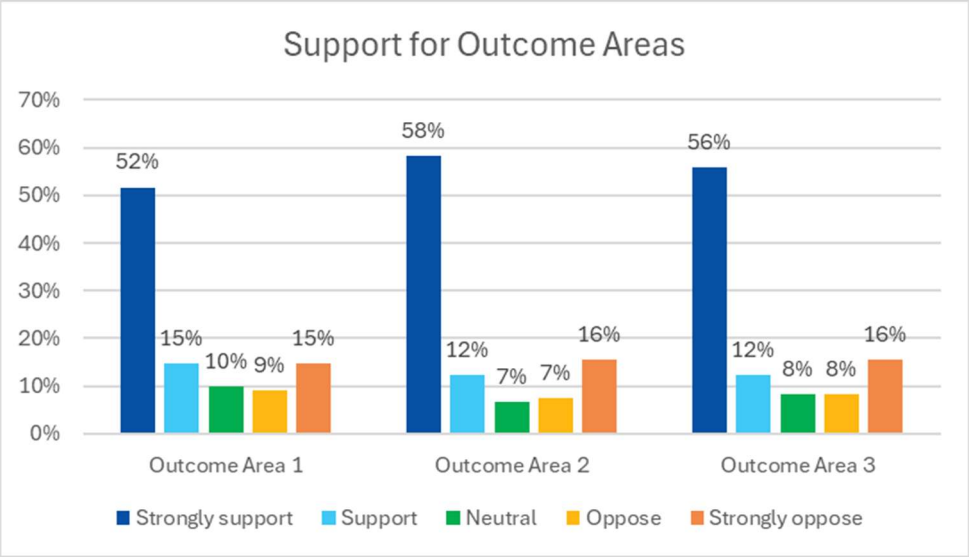
3.2 Your Say Survey Feedback Results

Responses from the Your Say survey showed that 63% of respondents were either very or extremely concerned about climate change. 10% of people were moderately concerned, 7% were slightly concerned, and 20% were not concerned.



Feedback provided from the Your Say survey found that most survey respondents supported all three outcome areas of the draft Climate Change Plan:

- Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - 66% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 1
  - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 1 (including 1 person who opposed OA1 as it was not ambitious enough)
- Outcome Area 2: Building a Resilient Maroondah
  - 70% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 2
  - 23% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 2
- Outcome Area 3: A Climate Ready Community
  - 68% of respondents supported or strongly supported Outcome Area 3
  - 24% of respondents opposed or strongly opposed Outcome Area 3



Feedback from the comment box in the Your Say survey fell into three main categories:

1. The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and/or Council should push for net zero as soon as possible
2. The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action
3. Climate change is not an issue and/or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

Feedback: The draft Climate Change Plan is not ambitious enough and Council should push for net zero as soon as possible

One submission noted the following:

> *The proposed 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035 is achievable, but not ambitious, particularly given Council has already reduced emissions by nearly 70% since 2011/12 through VECO, LED upgrades, and efficiency measures. With rapid advancements in electrification and renewable technologies, Council is well positioned to bring timelines forward or lift the target to reflect what is now possible — and necessary — for climate leadership.*

Council understands the pressing nature of climate action and greenhouse gas emissions reduction at a personal, household, organisational, national and global scale. However, it is also important to recognise that Council must act financially responsibly and within the limitations of available budgets. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to balance the long-term financial sustainability of Council (of which climate change poses significant and real threats) with appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation. For this reason, the following emissions reduction target has been set:

Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035.

The target considers that most of the simple or low-cost emissions reduction actions have already been completed, and the remaining emissions are from harder or more costly-to-reduce sources. The target also considers asset renewal schedules and existing commitments, project lead times and costs, and ongoing operational savings to determine a realistic and achievable rate of emissions reduction. Actions are written in such a way that Council will aim, where possible, to exceed expected emissions reductions, but recognises a significant number of unknowns, including uncertainty in supply chains due to risks associated with climate change. The Draft Climate Change Plan proposes the use of an emissions reduction pathway to prioritise in the following order:

1. Improve efficiency, reduce wastage to reduce the energy demand of Council assets
2. Generate electricity on site
3. Electrify Council assets
4. Purchase renewable electricity through the Victorian Energy Collaboration
5. Reduce scope 3 or value chain emissions

Specific actions outlined in the Draft Plan include a plan to implement two significant projects to reduce scope 1 emissions; the electrification of at least one of Council's three aquatic centres by 2035, and the electrification of 50% of Council's fleet by 2030. Technology to implement these projects was not feasible until recent years and it is still an evolving space. Council currently purchases net zero electricity for all council buildings and street lighting, significantly reducing scope 2 emissions. The final step in the hierarchy presented in the Plan is better capturing scope 3 emissions data so a pathway for further emissions reduction can be developed.

While it is recognised there is a community demand for further action, project feasibility and financial sustainability is also considered an important component to decision making. Instead, Council will maintain the proposed target but will seek to exceed it if/where possible.

Feedback: The draft Climate Change Plan provides appropriate and ambitious direction for Council to pursue climate action

One submission noted the following:

> *I think it is excellent to see the local council taking real measures to help mitigate climate change and prepare the community to deal with the challenges. It's such a global issue, and most focus on mitigation is at a federal level, but local action makes a huge difference.*

Council recognises the support for both climate change mitigation and adaptation actions presented in the Draft Climate Change Plan.

Feedback: Climate change is not an issue or there is nothing that Council can or should be doing to address it

One submission noted the following:

> *A total waste of time and energy. Australia has virtually zero impact on climate change and Maroondah absolutely zero. Stop wasting your time and get on with running Maroondah.*

Comments opposing the Draft Climate Change Plan focused on the relevance of climate science, suggesting climate change is not a threat to the Maroondah community or Council operations. There were also comments regarding the insignificance of Council's total contribution towards global emissions, particularly in comparison to countries such as China and India, or that climate change mitigation or emissions reduction should be left to other levels of government. It is recognised that Council and the broader Maroondah community contribute a smaller portion of global emissions than entire countries, however Council has set an emissions reduction target to achieve the following outcomes:

- To meet Council's legislated obligations to align with state and federal emissions reduction targets and its responsibility to future generations under the *Local Government* and *Climate Action Acts*
- To act as a role model to Maroondah residents and businesses, demonstrating the broad range of social, financial and environmental benefits to improving energy efficiency and lowering emissions of buildings and infrastructure
- To prioritise operational efficiency, reduce long-term operating and maintenance costs, and improve the thermal comfort and associated accessibility of Council's assets
- To ensure Council's assets and services meet community needs and expectations both now and into the future

In many instances, survey participants who opposed the mitigation outcome area tended to oppose the entire plan. These comments do not recognise Council owned assets (eg. Buildings, roads, and stormwater and public lighting infrastructure) are vulnerable to climate change, including but not limited to rising insurance premiums and risk of long term under insurance or uninsurability of Council assets, rising energy prices, and changes to operating and maintenance requirements. The Climate Change Plan is as much about adaptation of Council's processes, procedures and asset management planning to the expected climate risks as it is about climate mitigation.

It is important to note that consultation did not seek to determine the legitimacy of climate science. Council is relying on the Australian and global science community to guide climate projections and the associated impacts if climate change on a local, regional and national scale. Comments questioning the existence of climate change or stating it is “climate hysteria”, or a “hoax” have not prompted any changes to the Draft Climate Change Plan for this reason.

Other comments

Feedback on many specific climate-related topics were also raised. Detailed responses to comments can be found in Appendix 1.

The importance of community education and home energy efficiency:
Outcome Area 3 recognises the importance of supporting our community to make sustainable choices, recognising the environmental, financial and social benefits of many of these actions. While Council does not offer any financial incentives for installing energy efficiency or solar/battery installations for residents, the Solar Savers program is a Council-run program that supports residents to access the various funding streams available from state and federal governments. Ongoing support of programs, such as Solar Savers and the My Energy and Water Saver Kits, is included under *Key Direction 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change*.

Concerns regarding increasing urban development and population growth:
Building new homes within an existing area allows for the preservation of farmland and land of environmental significance that is located on the urban fringe. It also means that these homes have good access to existing public transport, services, retail and health needs and employment, reducing travelling time and emissions from transport. Good design of new buildings can reduce emissions by making new homes more energy efficient.

Transport planning should include improved active transport networks and better public transport infrastructure:
The Maroondah Transport Strategy 2025-2035 provides further detail regarding Council’s plans to continue to improve active transport. Council also considers ancillary infrastructure (eg. seating, drinking fountains, tree planting for shade) as part of the development and planning of active transport routes, as per Victorian guidelines to ensure comfort and safety when using these routes. The Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (currently in development) will also include further details on improvements to cycling paths across the municipality.

Public transport, including bus and train routes and service frequency, is a State Government responsibility, however Council continues to advocate for more bus and train services to meet the growing needs of the Maroondah community. Advocacy positions are included in the Maroondah Transport Strategy.

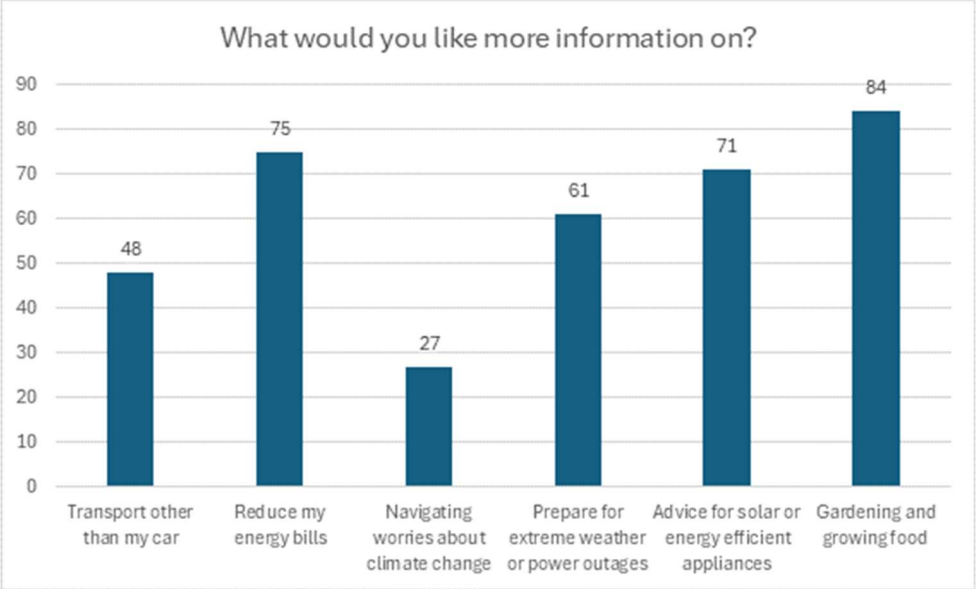
Greater protection and recognition of the value of trees and vegetation for mitigating climate risks, including extreme heat and flooding:
Outcome area 2 - Building a Resilient Maroondah highlights the important role of Maroondah’s leafy green suburbs in preparing for the impacts of climate change, as well as the impacts of climate change on the natural environment. However, the Climate Change Plan is not intended to be a planning document nor make changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme. The Maroondah Planning Scheme has existing controls that protect vegetation, however, recent changes made by the State Government have made it more difficult for Council to protect vegetation and implement the actions in the Vegetation Strategy. Council will continue to advocate for the protection of vegetation through the Planning Scheme.

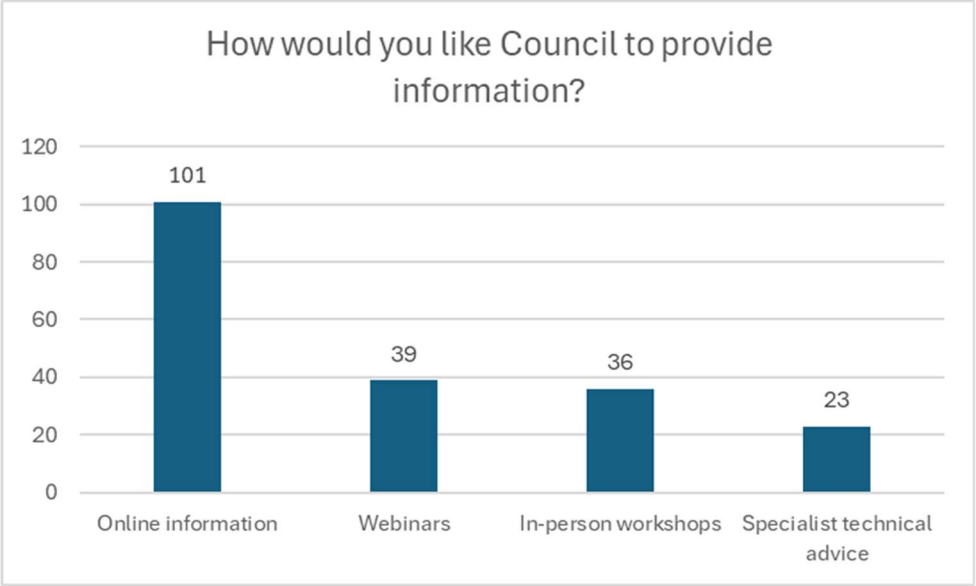
Climate change action is not considered a responsibility of Council and/or climate change is not real:
Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the *Local Government Act* 2020 and the *Climate Action Act* 2017. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to prepare Council assets and

services for the predicted impacts of climate change and ensuring environmental, social and financial sustainability of Council operations and services over the coming years. Emissions reduction makes up only one component of this, however emissions reduction projects usually have a satisfactory return on investment, and climate-related projects undergo feasibility and business case planning prior to implementation. Council must also prepare for the upcoming renewable energy transition to ensure it is not exposed to price spikes and increasing service operation costs.

What would you like more information on?

Survey participants were also asked to choose 3 topics they would like Council to provide more information on, and how they would like to receive this information. The two most popular options were “Gardening and growing food” and “Reduce my energy bills”, with most people showing a preference for online information over webinars, in-person workshops, and specialist technical advice. This feedback will be incorporated into the design of an education program to support Outcome Area 3.





4 What we were told - Consultation with community groups

4.1 Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates

The Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates (MYWA) is a group of 16 young people, aged 15 - 25 who meet regularly with Council Youth Services staff to:

- Provide their perspectives to inform Council strategies, plans and projects
- Work with Council teams to find better ways to involve young people in Council planning and activities
- Design and deliver the annual Maroondah Youth Forum
- Support Council teams on projects and events involving young people

About the consultation

Council officers attended the MYWA meeting on Wednesday, 5 November 2025. Officers presented information about Council's responsibilities to respond to climate change and key details from the Draft Climate Change Plan. MYWA members were asked four questions, with results shown below. Two questions aligned with questions asked at the Maroondah Festival and consultation pop-up events:

1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. What would you like more information on?

MYWA were also asked two questions to capture comments from about attitudes of Maroondah youth about climate change:

3. What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?
4. What would you like to know more about climate change in Maroondah?

Answers to questions 3 and 4 were captured in groups of 3-4 on butchers' paper and have been combined below.

Results

9 MYWA members participated in the surveys, which showed five out of nine were "moderately concerned" about climate change, three were "very concerned" and one person was "slightly concerned".

To the question "what would you like more information on?" the top answers were "prepare for extreme weather or power outages" and "gardening and growing food".

Key themes raised for the question "What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?" included:

- Concern and uncertainty regarding future impacts of climate change and the responsibility to "fix everything" falling on the shoulders of young people
- Impacts of climate change on friends and family
- The exacerbation of cost of living and inflation from climate-related disasters
- Impacts to plants and animals
- Things will be more difficult

Key themes raised for the question “What more would you like to know about climate change in Maroondah?” included:

- Science and available data about climate change
- What climate change means for Maroondah and the local area
- How climate change will impact young people
- How young people can advocate and plan for change
- The role of Council in planning for climate change and advocating for more to be done

More details on MYWA feedback can be found in Appendix 3.

4.2 Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC)

In December, Council officers met with Wurundjeri Aunties to discuss key themes of the Draft Climate Change Plan and opportunities for alignment with the Whole of Country Plan 2025-2035. The Whole of Country Plan, which was produced by the WWCHAC, identifies several actions that can support a collaborative response to climate change. Care for Country and a connection to nature were common themes that provide a strong foundation to climate action. Comments included:

- Ensuring development across the municipality is sustainable
- Encourage connection to Country, particularly in children, to foster a lifelong appreciation of our natural environment
- Education resources for residents about:
    - Simple steps they can take to improve the sustainability of their home and property
    - Plants that are drought tolerant and attract birds and pollinators
    - The difference between the aesthetics of indigenous or native vegetation and a manicured garden and the role of long grasses/tussocks in supporting local biodiversity
- Prioritise traditional land management techniques and species selection in Council managed open spaces
- Plant more trees

4.2 Direct Written Responses

Council received one formal written response to the Draft Climate Change Plan via email. Three primary issues were raised;

1. Community greenhouse gas emissions and solar PV in the planning scheme
2. The role of Council in advocacy for plastic waste management in supply chains
3. Stormwater management

Further details of this feedback and Council’s response have been included in Appendix 3.

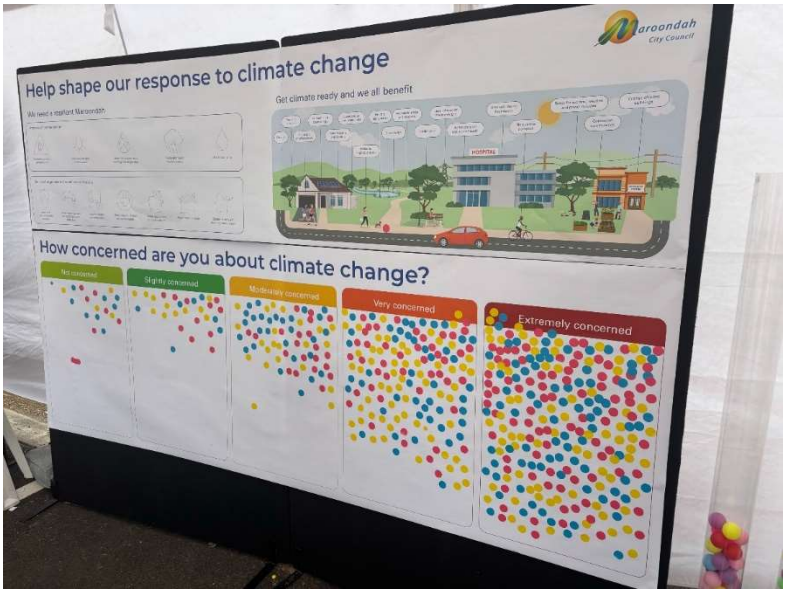
5 What we were told - Café Consult at Maroondah Festival

Council Officers participated in the Maroondah Festival Café Consult tent on Sunday, 9 November 2025. Café Consult, located at one of the Civic Drive entrances to the festival, provided community members with an opportunity to engage with up to five Council consultations, including the Draft Climate Change Plan. People who responded to at least three consultations were eligible for a free hot or cold drink.

Two questions regarding the Draft Climate Change Plan were asked, and postcards and posters with QR codes directed the community to complete the full survey on the Your Say page.

Results are detailed below:

Question 1: How concerned are you about climate change?	
Not concerned	19
Slightly concerned	30
Moderately concerned	72
Very concerned	155
Extremely concerned	256



Overall, out of 532 responses, 77% of survey participants were either very or extremely concerned about climate change, 13.5% were moderately concerned, and 9% were either not concerned or slightly concerned. These results highlight that climate change is considered a significant concern across the Maroondah community. Conversations from the day highlighted that a lot of people consider “climate action” to mean emissions reduction as opposed to climate adaptation. This presents an opportunity to provide more clarity and simple-language community education.

The second question was “what would you like more information on?” This question sought to understand where there may be demand for improved climate change or sustainability related education resources for community members. Each person was given 3 balls and could choose which of the 6 options they would like to see Council provide further resources on by dropping the ball into voting tubes.

Question 2: What would you like more information on?	
Prepare for extreme weather or power outages	292
Gardening and growing food	322
Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances	232
Reduce my energy bills	387
Navigating worries about climate change	112
Transport other than my car	255

The most popular topics from the Café Consult consultation were “Reduce my energy bills” and “Gardening and growing food”. These results were reinforced by comments from participants about the cost of living and the benefits of getting outside and into the garden.

6 What we were told - Library Pop Ups

Council officers conducted consultation pop ups at the Croydon and Realm Libraries during the consultation period. Each pop up coincided with the toddler storytime to capture a more popular time to visit the library. Pop ups asked the same two questions as Café Consult and directed community members to the Your Say survey to provide further feedback.

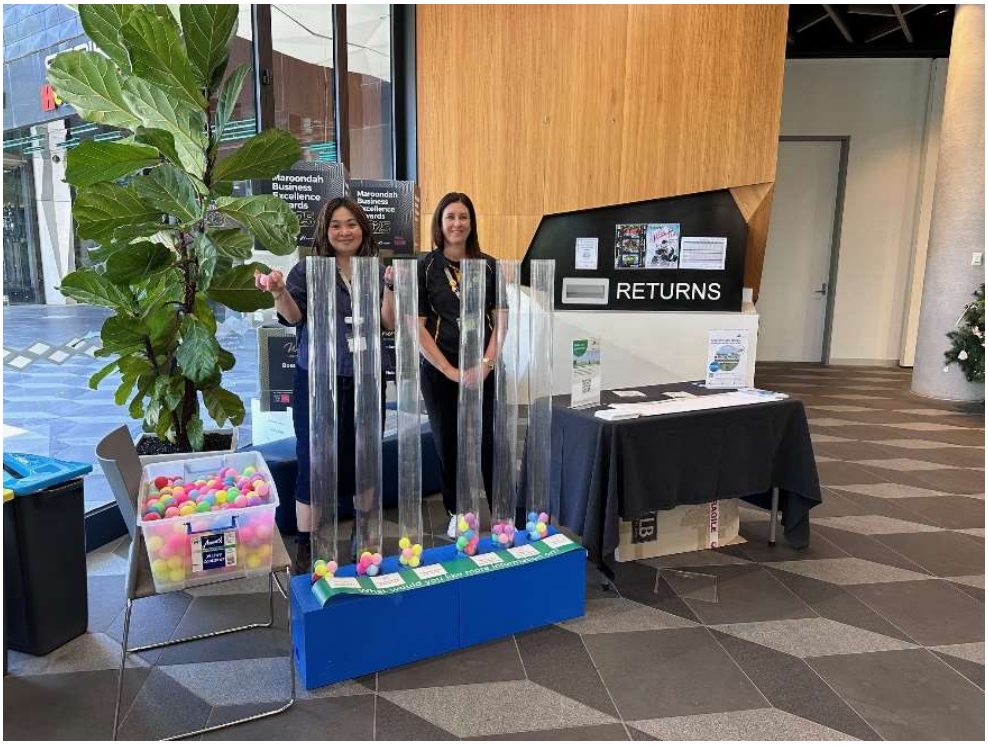
Feedback from the Croydon Library and Realm pop-ups found that 84% of survey participants were very or extremely concerned about climate change.

Question 1: How concerned are you about climate change?	Croydon Library	Realm	Total
Not concerned	0	0	0
Slightly concerned	0	1	1
Moderately concerned	3	1	4
Very concerned	11	3	14
Extremely concerned	5	7	12
Total	19	12	31

Popular topics for Council to provide more information on at the pop-ups include “Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances” and “Reduce my energy bills”.

Question 2: What would you like more information on?	Croydon Library	Realm	Total
Prepare for extreme weather or power outages	10	5	15
Gardening and growing food	11	5	16
Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances	12	12	24
Reduce my energy bills	15	6	21
Navigating worries about climate change	7	5	12
Transport other than my car	8	6	14
Total	63	39	102

Council officers also attended four Storytime events at Realm Library to hand out postcards, encourage community members to visit the Your Say page, and answer any questions about the Climate Change Plan.



7 Recommendations

Following feedback received during the consultation period, several changes to the draft Plan are recommended:

Develop an executive summary

1. Develop a simple executive summary that incorporates climate risks to Council and community and the role of the Climate Change Plan in preparing Maroondah for the expected impacts of climate change.

Embedding Care for Country

2. Consultation with Wurundjeri highlighted the importance of understanding the impacts of climate change on Country. This has also been recognised in the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurung Whole of Country Plan. It is recommended that the role of caring for Country in leading climate action be embedded in both *Section 1 - Why is climate change important?* and *Outcome Area 3 - A Climate Ready Community*

Communication of technical concepts

3. Ensure key terms such as “green infrastructure” are clearly defined throughout the Plan to improve reader understanding, reduce jargon and improve accessibility of the Plan for those without technical knowledge.
4. Update the climate change risk infographic on page 4 *Section 2 - What does the evidence say?* to include all risk themes captured in Maroondah’s Climate Change Risk Assessment (2024), including food security.
5. Update infographics to improve engagement and improve the visual communication of complex concepts presented in the plan.
6. Provide more information on the emissions reduction hierarchy presented in *Outcome Area 1 - Reducing Council’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions* to ensure technical concepts are easily communicated and understood by readers.

Active transport and reducing community emissions

7. Specify the role of active transport in *Outcome Area 3 - A Climate Ready Community* - 1. Reducing community emissions

Community focused climate actions

8. Focus community education resources from key direction *3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change* on the following topics:
    a. What is climate change and how will it affect Maroondah?
    b. Simple ways to reduce home energy consumption and costs
        i. Advice for solar and energy efficient appliances
    c. Gardening
        i. Indigenous species selection
        ii. Drought tolerant gardening
        iii. Growing food at home
        iv. Using vegetation to create a climate resilient home
9. Prioritise online education resources
10. Identify opportunities for collaboration with existing community organisations to reach a broader audience

8 Appendices

Appendix 1: Comments from the Your Say Page Survey

Comment	Council Response
Proactivity is essential. Impressed by Council's past and future planning. Green, leafy communities are healthier- both physically and psychologically. And if not protected now, cannot be replaced - opportunities lost. So again, thankyou for your present actions to support future health across all aspects.	These comments of support have been noted.
I am impressed with the data in the draft Climate Change Plan 2026-2031 that is evidence of the great effort Council is making to reduce emissions and protect our beautiful environment.	
This is great and I am eager to do my part in improving climate change.	
AusNet commends Maroondah City Council for producing this climate change plan and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft. No one agency can do all that is needed on risk mitigation and adaptation and there are many areas where Maroondah City Council and AusNet are aligned in our efforts to support the communities we serve. In particular we are pleased to see the plans for: • Preparing for emergencies • Reduce scope 2 emissions by investing in renewable energy sources and storage for Council assets • Identify opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change/ Emergency preparedness We are pleased to have a constructive working relationship with Maroondah City Council and we are looking forward to continuing to collaborate to support communities going forward.	

From an organisation viewpoint of AusNet assisting customers in literacy of resiliency in energy and preparing for emergencies including power outages is extremely important and sits in line with the messaging that AusNet are attempting to get to customers also. Maroondah's goals across the Climate Change Plan are aligned with AusNet.	See previous comment.
I think it is excellent to see the local council taking real measures to help mitigate climate change and prepare the community to deal with the challenges. It's such a global issue, and most focus on mitigation is at a federal level, but local action makes a huge difference.	
Excellent!	
I support any action the Council takes that will reduce emissions and ensure a healthier environment for my children and grandchildren to live in.	
I like that the document covers both Council activities/emissions and the important role that residents play in tackling climate change with the decisions they make in their homes (ie improving household thermal efficiency and electrifying appliances). Saying that "reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and the associated greenhouse gas emissions still plays an important role in limiting the severity of future climate change" is a clear statement about the continued need to take action rather than simply continue as we are and focus on preparing our neighbourhoods for the climate change impacts to come.	
This Plan is a realistic but achievable take on how to manage ourselves moving forward in a Climate Crisis	
As highlighted in the Key Direction 3.4 actions, it's essential Council promotes programs such as Solar Savers and educates the community (why this is an issue, what can be done, what resources are available to assist residents, etc). I have three specific suggestions for implementing the 3.4 action items. Suggestion 1 - Investigate using Australian Energy Assessments to deliver home efficiency assessments for Maroondah residents. Their business	Council will consider appropriate opportunities and methods to support residents to undertake the Residential Efficiency Scorecard Assessments.

model is based on carrying out the Residential Efficiency Scorecard assessments for the cost of the government rebate. Hence, the resident gets the official report for "free". Using this approach avoids Council trying to set up a subsidy and the associated administration. Free assessments already exist.	See previous comment.
Suggestion 2 - Create an easy to find page on the Maroondah website similar to the Whitehorse Council website "Reduce Your Home's Energy Use". That website contains everything a resident needs to plan their transition to an efficiency, all-electric dwelling. Links from this one page takes visitors to websites such as Victorian Energy Compare (to ensure they have the cheapest available energy plan), Solar Savers (detailed information about draught proofing suppliers, insulation, hot water heat pumps, solar panels, etc) and rebate information. It's a one-stop shop that residents can return to over and over as they make changes according to their budget/timing. Any workshops encouraging residents to take action can simply refer them to this one informative resource.	Council is currently in the process of updating the content on "Sustainability" pages of Council's website. These suggestions will be incorporated where possible and will support draft action *3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change*.
Suggestion 3 - I encourage the Council to collaborate with local environmental groups with the development and delivery of community education (eg workshops and webinars). I'm a member of ECAM (Eastern Climate Action Melbourne) which is a group of local residents who are keen to share their experience/knowledge of household efficiency & electrification. Neighbours talking to neighbours is an excellent way to normalise the necessary changes and demonstrate what's possible. If they can do it, so can I. Talking to a neighbour avoids the concern about a workshop being a sales pitch from a company which might put off some potential attendees. Collaboration also leverages Council resources. One or two Council employees working with a team of enthusiastic, knowledgeable volunteers can accomplish a great deal without adding a significant load to busy employees.	Council recognises the important role of community groups in building a climate resilient Maroondah. Our community will see greater benefits by lots of people taking small, simple steps rather than a few people doing everything "perfectly". Actions under key direction 3.4 have been adjusted to reflect this opportunity.
Community education is a priority. Many households still don't know how to recycle properly, let alone reduce their environmental impact.	Education is a key priority for providing households with the right information on waste and recycling. Our education program was recently expanded, with over 89 events held in 2025 and nearly 3,740 residents attending. This has grown from 1,400 residents participating in 2023.

Would like to see more Council educational opportunities for people to learn how to reduce their meat intake. Reducing meat intake, particularly red meat, significantly impacts climate change in Australia by lowering greenhouse gas emissions from livestock, especially methane from cattle and sheep. Shifting to plant-based proteins and other less carbon-intensive meats like chicken or fish can decrease an individual's food-related carbon footprint and help address environmental issues like land clearing and water use associated with livestock.	Outcome Area 3 recognises the importance of supporting our community to make sustainable choices, recognising the environmental, financial and social benefits of many of these actions. There are currently no plans to provide specific education resources on red meat consumption, however Council does already offer some low food-waste events throughout the year.
Where you list impact of climate change, you fail to mention failure of crops and rapid decline in food sources. This is one of the major impacts. The list of foods expected to not be available or available in significantly reduced supply within 50 years is horrific, yet nobody talks about this.	Council's climate change risk assessment recognises food security as a risk. An updated infographic of climate change risks will be included in the final Plan. The scope of the risk assessment was limited to Council's operational control, so this excludes the specifics of crop failure and instead focuses on the supply chain and cost constraints. Council will continue to work with community groups who support access for food for vulnerable community members.
It would be of great benefit to everyone, if each house block was increased just enough to allow for a shade tree to be planted in each.	House block sizes are controlled through the Maroondah Planning Scheme and in some residential zones no minimum lot size is specified. There are efficiencies to be gained from smaller lots through building design and energy efficiency measures. The Climate Change Plan is separate from the Planning Scheme and does not seek to make changes to the Planning Scheme.

Regarding Key directions for Building a Resilient Maroondah I think Council have a role to play in policy making to ensure that dwelling sizes (and council builds) are limited so that we can retain as much of our tree canopy and vegetation on private and public land as possible whilst population increases. Please include that "green infrastructure" includes energy efficiency and reducing energy wastage through smart design - eg insulation and use of natural light.	Dwelling sizes are controlled by a range of factors in the Maroondah Planning Scheme, including impacts on and loss of vegetation but also setbacks, building heights, proximity to activity centres, solar access and carparking. The Climate Change Plan cannot make changes to many of these requirements as they are set out by the State Government. Council builds also require a number of considerations including what the building is used for, who is using it, building cost, its purpose and location. Some buildings contain the co-location of a number of services which may increase the size of the building but mean that another building does not need to be constructed elsewhere. Green infrastructure in this case means the use of vegetation and natural/environmental processes to achieve outcomes or ecosystem services. Actions to prioritise energy efficiency and environmentally sustainable design (ESD) sit under Outcome Area 1: Reducing Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions. We recognise that there is overlap between climate change mitigation and adaptation.
Given the State Government's plans for high rise densification in Maroondah and the Federal Govt's unsustainable level of population growth, doing anything about climate change locally feels pointless.	Densification of development in existing areas prevents urban sprawl and utilises existing infrastructure. It means that farmland and areas of environmental significance can be protected from development.
How can Maroondah build over 40000 new homes, manage the outputs from the building works, the concrete, the new infrastructure etc, and then the outputs from the residents simply living, the production of their cars, their rubbish, their methane, and seriously pretend that anything it does will actually decrease emissions. The policy to populate is antithetical to achieving net improvement. It is simply hogwash and pointless. We should be building resilience but bracing for impacts because unless a credible population policy is developed we are pissing into the wind while looking away from the problem.	Building new homes within an existing area allows for the preservation of farmland and land of environmental significance that is located on the urban fringe. It also means that these homes have good access to existing public transport, services, retail and health needs and employment, reducing travelling time and emissions from transport. Good design of new buildings can reduce emissions by making new homes more energy efficient.

No mention of incentivisation for homeowners adopting retro changes to their power source upgrades. Such as battery or solar where Rates can be discounted exponentially based on evidential documents showing electricity, water or gas usage reduction tot eh average user.	While Council does not offer any financial incentives for installing energy efficiency or solar/battery installations for residents, the Solar Savers program is a Council-run program that supports residents to access the various funding streams available from state and federal governments. Ongoing support of programs, such as Solar Savers and the My Energy and Water Saver Kits, is included under key direction 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change.
Has Council asked the children about this plan? Officers need to work on including children of all ages about this topic as they are not only impacted but are important members of the community. Where is their voice collected and used to formulate the plan?	Children were engaged primarily through interactions with their parents at events such as Maroondah Festival and pop ups at Realm and Croydon Library story times. Council Officers also met with the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates to collect feedback from young people in Maroondah.
Glad Council is creating a Climate Change Plan. I do not think it is ambitious enough - I think we need to aim to reduce emissions earlier. The document is confusing because it says "We will use an emissions reduction hierarchy to prioritise actions" which implies that Council will "1. Improve efficiency, reduce wastage" as it's first action yet under "Key directions" the only mention of reduce is of scope 3 emissions. Following the hierarchy would mean you would consider reducing waste of scope 1 and 2 emissions. Please consider including reduction of wastage of scope 1 and 2 emissions as one of the Key directions as well. Reading the document you are reducing emissions of scope 1 and 2 emissions via generation of renewable energy only not considering reducing waste.	Council understands the pressing nature of emissions reduction. The draft Climate Change Plan proposes an emissions reduction pathway to prioritise reducing energy need/demand, generating energy on site, and electrifying Council assets. The emissions reduction target is based on the expected emissions reduction outcomes from a number of significant scope 1 emissions reduction projects; electrification of at least one aquatic centre by 2035, and the electrification of 50% of Council's fleet by 2030. Technology to implement these projects was not feasible until recently. Timelines consider funding availability and asset management schedules to ensure project feasibility and will be moved forwards if funding becomes available. Council currently purchases net zero electricity for all council buildings and street lighting, significantly reducing scope 2 emissions. The final step in the hierarchy presented in the Plan is better capturing scope 3 emissions so a pathway for further emissions reduction can be developed.
While I support everything proposed, Governments and Councils generally are not doing nearly enough to mitigate climate change. We need to follow recommendations of climate scientists who have been telling us for decades what we need to do and they have been largely ignored. Cost is always raised as a reason for not acting, however, no-one discusses the cost of constantly recovering from severe weather events.	

Target is too low. Target should be decarbonise to maximum extent in shortest time.	See previous comments.
I would like to see a stronger commitment from Council. Reducing emissions by 50% by 2035 is not enough. We are in the midst of climate change. I encourage Council to increase their reduction of emissions to at least 70%.	
Issue: "Council will reduce operational scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2021/22 levels by 2035." The aim should be to reduce scope 1 to net-zero, not just 50%. As Australia's National Climate Risk Assessment clearly indicates, the need for net-zero emissions is overdue and severe.	
Reducing emissions by 2035 is too long. Your aim should be by 2030. Climate science tells us we don't have til 2035 to muck around.	
I don't believe the commitments are strong enough. The evidence supports a quicker transition for the health of the community. As a leader, the council needs to demonstrate a very strong commitment to reduction in pollution (carbon, nitrogen and PM 2.5).	
We must do much more in our efforts to combat climate change. It may cost some profits now, but the cost will be much greater in the future if we don't do even more than proposed.	

I would like to know how Council will include climate change in Council planning and everyday decisions and support the community, what are the strategies, what does this look like? Can Council lobby state and federal governments to take further action on climate change and/or show leadership in this space.	Outcome Area 2 demonstrates how climate change will be embedded in decision making, with actions including: • Embed climate change in relevant Council policies, plans, strategies and reports • Embed climate change in position descriptions of all relevant staff members in climate change related roles and responsibilities • Develop climate change training for Council staff and Councillors • Review climate change risks within operational risk profiles and business continuity plans The Draft Climate Change Plan shows intention to continue advocacy to both state and federal governments through Key Direction 2.1 Use shared resources and technical expertise through the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) to advocate to state and federal governments for support to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, maximising efficiencies of scale.
The council can also play a greater role in supporting businesses and other entities in interacts with by requiring these groups to demonstrate pollution reduction. For example garbage collection could be with electric garbage trucks (established technology), council could easily transition the car fleet to electric now, more solar panels in the council area (the basket ball stadium on Canterbury road), a local renewable power supplier for pensioners and at risk community members. The council could be a whole lot more proactive and a leader in this space.	Council continues to seek best practice emissions reduction opportunities that are financially sound and beneficial for the Maroondah community. This includes installing solar panels as part of development or refurbishment works at Council buildings (including The Rings basketball stadium, which has a 97.6 kW solar array). The draft Plan outlines the intention to begin fleet electrification, with 50% of fleet to be electrified by 2030.
Please address the aluminium, brontium that is being rained down on us from chemtrail vapours that then cause rain within 24 hours. Is this not man-made climate change? Does the rain making control act (https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/rain-making-control-act-1967/016) not cause man made climate changes? Will the draft climate change plan address these weather modification programs before they fund programs that will do nothing to change the weather modification happening?	This is considered outside the scope of the Draft Climate Change Plan.

If climate change is such a concern why aren't fuel loads along the Jumping creek, Warranwood reserve area being reduced or eliminated to combat the increased bushfire risk	Fire management practices and strategies for bushland reserves within Maroondah have been designed in cooperation with representatives from Maroondah City Council and Fire Management Agencies like Fire Rescue Victoria and CFA. We use recommendations from fire agencies as to how to prepare bushland reserves for the fire season and ensure that fire breaks and cleared areas within identified risk locations are of an adequate distance. Recent management practice for Maroondah's Bushland Reserves is for the Fire Rescue Victoria or CFA official of our region to conduct a walk through with Council staff to inspect the fire management practices that have been undertaken by Council. We receive confirmation during these inspections that fire preparation works have met Fire agencies satisfaction, and any further recommended works required to bring the reserve up to the expectations. This includes assessing the access points for the reserves for fire suppression operations. Fire Agencies have supported the approach and strategies Maroondah Council have in place to ensure minimisation of fire risk. Communication received from Fire Agencies is that Maroondah City Council is meeting the expectations regarding fire preparation and fuel load reduction within its bushland reserves.
I'm concern d that building resilience is code for adapting to run away global heating rather than reducing the emissions we need to.	The Draft Climate Change Plan recognises that while it is important for Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, some degree of climate change is already locked in. For this reason, it is essential that Council prepare its assets, operations, services, and the wider Maroondah community for the impacts of climate change.
I'm also concerned about the unnecessary fugitive emissions and light polution from the giant LCD billboards that seems to be increasing in numbers in Maroondah. On Warrandyte road Maroondah highway intersection theres the LCD screens on four corners. It's distracting a waste of energy and effects local wildlife and bird sleeping habits.	Signage is regulated under the Maroondah Planning Scheme, however, the provisions in relation to signage are set out by the State Government, and Council is unable to make local changes to these requirements. Unfortunately, these provisions do not allow the consideration of emissions and are focused on visual amenity. Consideration of the sensitivity of an area is required including impacts on the natural environment, waterways and open space. The provisions allow for the consideration of visual clutter or disorder but are very limited in the assessment of light pollution. In more sensitive areas,

	adjoining bushland and creeks Council would be able to consider this impact but for signs located in central Ringwood it would be difficult to argue the impacts on adjoining sensitive uses.
Very happy to see the council assets being more environmentally friendly but seriously something needs to be done to stop residents from using wood fires in their homes and outside for parties or to clean up rubbish? We have done our best to seal our home but the wood fire particles from surrounding wood fires, that are lit because they look pretty, still enter our home and cause us massive health events that usually require ambulance and hospital or medical visits to get resolved. We have asthma issues in our home and out walking in our neighbourhood which is just not good enough. We shouldn't have to accept it when a member from council told us that the wood fire smoke coming from an illegally installed wood fire is steam. This is how much council was working towards our health? Read any asthma Australia hand out about the PM2.5 particles which can be inhaled deep into the lungs, and toxic gases like carbon monoxide, these can cause immediate issues such as severe asthma symptoms, eye and throat irritation, and long-term exposure may lead to heart and lung diseases, or even be carcinogenic. Our neighbourhood should not have these risks. So please do something to fix it?	Currently, there is no law that prohibits the use of wood heaters in Victoria. Council actively promotes through its social platforms and Maroondah news, information to the community on the correct use of wood heaters to minimise smoke emissions. In Maroondah, residents on small residential blocks of land are not permitted to "burn off or "incinerate" any material and permits are not issued. Council will follow up any complaints of this nature. A permit to burn may be issued to properties greater than 10,000m^2 (1 hectare) and the material to be burnt must not contain any rubber, plastic, oil, paint, chemicals, food scraps, green flora or other substance likely to cause a nuisance when burnt. Other conditions also apply. Council will respond to complaints related to smoke emitted by indoor and outdoor wood heaters that produce smoke that may be impacting others. Council provides EPA guidance to wood heater operators on the correct use of wood heaters to reduce smoke https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/manage-smoke-wood-heaters) and can undertake compliance action under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act or the Maroondah Community Local Law, where operators are not correctly using the wood heaters under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act or the Maroondah Community Local Law.
We need solar on all community buildings.	Council currently has solar PV on 52 Council buildings and continues to roll-out additional solar PV systems where appropriate as facilities are constructed or upgraded.
Better management of storm water so that it can be saved for the dry periods.	The Water Sensitive City Strategy will begin review in 2026, with the expected impacts of climate change on local water systems and consumption patterns to be included in greater detail than what it allowed for in the Draft Climate Change Plan.

More recycling including soft plastics.	Maroondah is advocating for a stewardship program for soft plastics so that community doesn't have to foot the bill for recycling this problematic waste stream. Currently, all Woolworths in Maroondah have reinstated a trial for soft plastic recycling. We have also partnered with Central Ringwood Community Centre to run a soft plastic recycling program. Once a month at the centre community days, the centre take the soft plastics that are dropped off. These then get collected and recycled by a local processor, APR.
Consider explaining what blue-green infrastructure is. Consider including Public Health services along with Immunisation under Reliable and responsive Council services.	This comment has been noted and will be incorporated into the Climate Change Plan.
Good to see this policy finally. A lot needs to happen to make active transport more feasible for people not in the Ringwood or Croydon Activity Centres. More public toilets, shaded pathways and seating are essential for those of us with longer, hillier commutes.	The Maroondah Transport Strategy 2025-2035 provides further detail regarding Council's plans to continue to improve active transport. Council also considers ancillary infrastructure (eg. seating, drinking fountains, tree planting for shade) as part of the development and planning of active transport routes, as per Victorian guidelines to ensure comfort and safety when using these routes. The Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (currently in development) will also include further details on improvements to cycling paths across the municipality.
I strongly feel that there needs to be a better network of bike paths for people to be more inclined to use cycling as a more environmentally mode of transportation for local travel. Not to mention improved public health.	
As an EV owner/driver, I would like Maroondah to provide at least 2 EV chargers within the "shopping" areas of the town. This "would/might" encourage more visitors to our town. I know there are chargers at the Devon St. carpark, but these are not practical for most newer EV vehicles.	EV chargers have been installed in Council-owned carparks in Devon St, Croydon and Bedford Road, Ringwood. For more details of EV charging availability, go to the Plug Share website.
We need a lot more buses and trains scheduled, especially on weekends. Free and unlimited public transport for school children and pensioners during the entire week.	While public transport is a State Government responsibility, Council continues to advocate for more bus and train services to meet the needs of our community. This advocacy is detailed in the Maroondah Transport Strategy.
Strong agree with tree preservation at the highest level. Land developers need to be supported to retain trees before building plans are approved. Council needs to be proactive when retained trees on building plans are removed are removed and fine heavily the responsible person.	Council has a planning enforcement team that investigate trees that have been removed without permission or illegally. They issue planning infringement notices and fines where appropriate.

Your plans for community resilience are good, but one of the key things that would help is to put power lines underground. I urge Council to work with Ausnet on this and treat it as a priority. I don't know if Council does this, but watering mature trees so we don't lose so many would also be helpful - habitat loss is a major issue for wildlife and we cannot afford to lose our mature trees.	Undergrounding powerlines and aerial bundling of overhead cables would be preferable for maintaining canopy in street trees and we advocate for this with the distribution businesses via council and professional bodies within the arboriculture industry. Council has a tree watering program for establishing newly planted trees in the first two years following planting. Once trees are established in the surrounding soil, they are usually able to support themselves without additional watering. A program for watering large mature trees is not viable due to practical constraints.
Croydon Central carpark has planted lovely trees so many times and just when they're starting to mature and get some height they get cut down - Why??? I expect this is beyond Council control, but it's madness.	Croydon Central is private land and council is not responsible for the management of trees within this area
Why can we not start these proposals NOW. Too many trees are cut down, too much concrete. Large developments like that proposed for Croydon central add to heat sink and loss of vegetation. Please can we do better?!	Council is already undertaking actions to reduce its emissions and support the community to reduce their emissions. Croydon Central is well located in relation to public transport, services, and daily needs of residents. Development in this area will provide new residents with the ability to walk, ride or catch public transport to where they need to go, rather than having to drive everywhere.
The draft Climate Change Plan like the Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030 fails to state exactly when and how the existing Planning Scheme will be amended to protect canopy trees and other essential green areas. The VGS recognises the significant loss of 'Carbon-Reducing' vegetation, but says nothing much about how this problem can be halted and reversed, as it needs to be! For instance, my own enquiries to the Planning department regarding the protection of a 70+ year old Himalayan Cedar tree at the Good Start early learning centre in Croydon South was met with following response. "We can't enforce protection of the Cedar tree, we have wait until it is dead before we could take any action. This is due to how our planning scheme is written. Other LGAs have much stronger protection for significant trees, but not here in Maroondah". So, you can see that this is a significant problem. I assume Council is waiting	The Climate Change Plan is not intended to be a planning document nor make changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme. The Maroondah Planning Scheme has existing controls that protect vegetation, however, recent changes made by the State Government have made it more difficult for Council to protect vegetation and implement the actions in the Vegetation Strategy. Any changes to the Maroondah Planning Scheme must be approved by the Minister for Planning.

until there are virtually no trees left in Maroondah, then there will be no problem to solve? Why can other LGAs have this protection in their Planning schemes but not Maroondah? What are you waiting for?	See previous comments.
I would like to see less collection of rubbish from weekly to fortnightly.	Changing collection frequencies for general waste is not currently part of our priority actions for our Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030, but it will be assessed in preparation of the next 10-year Strategy.
Council can focus on waste reduction and efficiency insofar as it applies to reducing rates and improving services. Council talking about impacting climate change is an absolute waste of time and resources. It is not council's purview to be involved in macro issues - that's why we have tiers of government.	Council has a legislated responsibility to address climate change under the Local Government Act 2020 and the Climate Action Act 2017. The Draft Climate Change Plan seeks to prepare Council assets and services for the predicted impacts of climate change and ensuring environmental, social and financial sustainability of Council operations and services over the coming years. Emissions reduction makes up only one component of this, however emissions reduction projects usually have a satisfactory return-on-investment and climate-related projects undergo feasibility and business case planning prior to implementation. Council must also prepare for the upcoming energy transition to ensure it is not exposed to price spikes and increasing service operation costs.
along as there is no cost increase or increasing costs	
It's missing the fact that Australia is responsible for less than 1% of global emissions, and as Climate Activist demands for Australian reductions are met, it's the local residents and businesses that pay the price for those irrelevant demands.	
Waste only enough money on this to keep the ideologues in Spring St and Canberra at bay.	
A total waste of time and energy. Australia has virtually zero impact on climate change and Maroondah absolutely zero. Stop wasting your time and get on with running Maroondah.	
This is not an issue to focus on. My parents struggle with bills and apparently the council rates are getting raised. Council should focus on reducing financial stress on residents instead of climate change stuff which will be a waste of money for people and families	

While climate change is a serious issue, the impact of spending on climate change at the local level is negligible at best. Resources would be better directed to projects withing councils primary function and climate policy left to state and federal government	See previous comment.
The council should focus on areas which are in it's core responsibility, including storm water and garbage and local re-cycling of plastics, beautifying the area, safe , pot-hole free roads and basic community services. Lowering costs to business through rejection of climate alarmist taxes and waste are my other suggestions. People need CHEAP power not alarmism-tax implemented by council policy.	
A lot of the data provided by the CSIRO etc in the Senate Estimates admitted under oath the data was falsified . They further said they were requested by the Labor party to do this. Other world experts have indicated there isn't a climate crisis. I have read more widely and the climate agenda 2030 is an outcome World Economic Forum that have had their influence over all levels of Australian government.	
Stop waisting money , invest in better roads, trees, do not spray glyphosate, so that nature, bees and birds survive and we have better environment and healthy trees, plant orchards, trees instead please	
Climate change is a hoax to raise taxes and cost every day Australians more whilst lining the pockets of corrupt organisations and governments	
Money is better spent on housing and cost of living rather than wasting time and money on something that will make no difference to the inevitable natural climate change.	
Climate has and always will continue to change. I don't see any value in becoming obsessed with climate change at this point in time. What Council can achieve, and what residents can achieve would not amount to a hill of beans. Let's focus on those things where we can have a greater impact for our $$	

The questions above are not properly framed, they show a strong bias towards encouraging 'positive' pro-climate (whatever that means) answers. The information supplied in the draft report does not address the costs of the actions implied. Nor does it show any real benefit from the actions it suggests. The actions proposed will burden the local community with higher regulatory costs. the program will involve more expensive costs in the administration of such controls. Nothing Maroondah can do will influence the 'climate' in any foreseeable manner. It's not about being a 'good citizen', it's a sign of naivety and poor administration of scarce public resources. The actions proposed are counter productive, will burden the community and the resources could be spent much better elsewhere. Best thing to do, drop it and leave it to higher levels of government.	See previous comment.
You only have to travel overseas to see that in particular Asian countries are not making any considerations and changes with climate change in mind. I am sick of seeing Australia consider climate change when we are the smallest part of the problem. No doubt this plan will put up rates.	
Donald Trump said in the open ONZ speech- 'It is a hoax!" and I am sure he is right.	
Focus on running the council. Stop with the woke stuff.	
The council need to focus on reduction of council running costs and not fallacious climate programs. What maroondah council does will make zero impact in the face of China India and the usa not taking the same action	
Stop wasting time and rate money. These are federal issues. Spend our money on safety measures. Many areas are not safe.	
Stop feeding climate hysteria. Climate change exists - yes- but it is not an threat to our future generations. A few degrees of warming or cooling is something humans can adapt to. This is also not what anyone reasonable would expect a local council to be spending tax payer money and resources on - we expect spending on libraries, rubbish, parks and community facilities. Not climate change - which there have been many media reports and scientists claiming things time and time again which have never come true and will not. As I said, the climate changes, that is true, but it is NOT an	

extenstial threat to the human race and all this hysteria does is cause anxiety in young people and divert resources from more important causes.	See previous comment.
Waste of our money	
There is no Climate Change. This is BS created by money hungry banks and insurance companies to use this excuse to extract more from population. Since ICE AGE the very SLOW increase of temperature might affect it, but it takes 20000 years to be significant. Even that- look at the Mornington Peninsula shore- there are Planty of coral reefs and rocks which shows there was 28-30 deg C in these waters and the life was thriving. The stupidity to believe in greenhouse effects is overwhelming: there is no living plant or creature without Carbon, every plant is extracting Carbon from CO2! Removing it is killing the whole nature. To understand stupidity of this action is to make a decision to kill all the bees because few people were killed! The result you want to achieve is exactly this same. Came on- show a trace of intelligence, please!	
The cost to ratepayers for Council to vigorously pursue a climate change agenda will far outweigh the benefits to be gained.	
Too much focus on climate change which is very much overblown	
Whatever is done in Australia will do nothing to effect any climate change - it is a con just resulting in a loss of lifestyle. The weather has been changing for thousands of years and will continue to do so. Its just a way to tax more!	
Why?	

Appendix 2: Feedback from the Your Say Visioner Board

The following responses were provided on the public Your Say Visioner Board on the Your Say page:

Anything that supports people to be active with others in the community, and to choose and feel safe in "Active Transport" (Walk/Ride)	Details for actions supporting active transport within Maroondah are included in the Maroondah Transport Strategy, and the Principle Pedestrian Network (draft to be released in 2026), and Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan (to be finalised in 2026 following consultation in 2025).
Keep libraries and pools etc open later on days over 35'c.	There are currently no plans to implement this, however this comment has been noted and opportunities to improve community access to cool places is considered a priority under the Climate Change Plan.
Dont clean with wipes at local public buildings Small things Expensive changes and policies Expensive bin lids	It is unclear what this comment is referring to and so it is not possible to provide a response.
Street battery storage to hold the excess power created by rooftop solar. It could be used by local homes at night. Reducing power bills.	While there are currently no plans to install a community battery at a street scale, Council installed its first battery at a Council facility in 2025. Council will continue to monitor for opportunities to support the community to improve energy resilience and reduce home energy bills.
Keep domestic cats indoors 24/7 to protect native wildlife.	This is addressed in the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.
Use large spreading trees (eg oak) on non-power sides of the street to provide shade and oxygen	We plant larger tree species where there is adequate space above and below ground to support their growth. Generally, the larger the tree the greater the environmental services. This usually means planting larger species of trees on the non-powerline side of the street and smaller species under lines. Tree planting location and species selection are influenced by available space and constraining factors such as traffic and pedestrian access, overhead and underground services and surrounding infrastructure, as well as the tree's horticultural tolerances, growth form and mature size. Species may be selected to provide shade and amenity in the streetscape, reflect neighbourhood character, and provide food and habitat for local fauna.
As community we would like to report and be listened to about matters that concern us. But there is no longer a way to do this	There are a number of ways for the community to provide feedback to Council. This includes responding to formal consultations through the Your Say page, Council's customer service centres, maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au, text and MMS line (0468 003 100), and Council's website.

Street trees that have been made ineffective by terrible pruning can be replaced with shorter growing species with a wide spread for walkabl	Renewing our tree canopy is essential to maintaining and extending tree canopy cover. Trees which are not performing well and have a low useful life expectancy may need to be removed a replaced with a species suited to the location. Trees provide shade and cooling to our streets, making active transport more enjoyable and reducing the urban heat island effect in our neighbourhoods.
Ensure our 3 waterway habitat corridors are kept clean and protected from litter and water contamination through education and enforcement	Work to begin reviewing and updating the Water Sensitive City Strategy will commence in 2026. Our current Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action plan, the first of several Biolink Action plans set to be released in coming few years, has set out actions that increase education and look to improve and increase processes that reduce litter within the creek line.
Energy efficient buildings should have exterior vegetation to assist in preventing heat sinks in areas without trees.	Actions to improve education around the role of trees within the urban environment will be incorporated into Outcome Area 3, particularly focussing on the following key directions: 3.1 Identify opportunities to encourage a connection to nature and care for Country 3.4 Provide support and education resources to Maroondah residents and businesses to encourage emissions reduction and facilitate adaptation to climate change 3.5 Identify opportunities to improve community resilience to climate change and emergency preparedness
Allow elderly to park for more than 3 hours at shopping centers on days over 36 deg, as they may not have airconditioning not keeping cool	Council has no control over private car parking at shopping centres, so this is currently considered out of scope of the Climate Change Plan.
Get Council involved in push back against "better building smarter choices" which does not allow for mature tree retention on blocks in Maro	Council has made several submissions to the State Government and continues to advocate through its membership as part of the Eastern Region Group of Councils in relation to changes to the planning controls that impact on the retention of vegetation on private land.
get the State govt, to allow for smaller diameter pruning of street trees around low voltage power lines, South Australia has already doneit	We advocate for this with Energy Safe Victoria via council and professional bodies within the arboriculture industry.

Appendix 3: Direct Written Response

Council received one response to the consultation via email. The following comments were received on behalf of a local community group:

Comment:
Council has demonstrated efforts to install solar power (1.42MW on Council buildings) and this has been successful in reducing power bills and greenhouse gas emissions. In combination with electrifying major household appliances, solar helps to lower household energy bills, improve grid stability, reduce emissions and reduce infrastructure costs of grid upgrades.

Council has mentioned that community action is an important aspect of meeting policy expectations. [redacted] agrees that supporting the community is an essential aspect of any Climate Action Plan. [redacted] sees Council support to encourage residents to improve their home's thermal efficiency, electrify major appliances (e.g. heating) and deploy solar at scale as a key opportunity. As demonstrated in Council data, community emissions are far greater than Council corporate emissions, with electricity, gas and transport accounting for significant emissions. Therefore a strategy that mitigates electricity emissions is the highest priority.

Council has so far supported the adoption of solar in the community through the Solar Savers program. Advice on the Council website encourages residents to replace gas appliances with efficient electrical alternatives and to install solar to cut their imports from the electricity grid, leading to lower energy bills. Therefore it is logical that Council would promote home electrification and solar through all practicable pathways, including the planning system. The planning system is core Council business and represents a straight forward and large scale
opportunity to implement solar. Local Government is also lagging State and Federal government in efforts to deploy solar - State government has installed solar farms, installed solar on buildings, subsidised residential solar and batteries, and the Federal government has funded years of solar through the STC rebates. Local government should be encouraging solar through the planning system to be consistent with its own policy and the two higher levels of government.

Benefits of solar required in planning permit:

1. The planning system is required to address power security and GHG emissions. Solar behind the meter is efficient and reduces peak loads on the grid. Solar feed in is more and more resolved with batteries which when fully deployed will make the grid highly resilient.
2. Each year Council processes approximately 1,000 applications that may be appropriate for solar. This equates to a minimum of 5MW of generation at no cost to Council.
3. Solar that is designed at the time of planning is cheaper to install and will get a better outcome.
4. Council has a policy to strongly encourage or mandate where practicable, solar power as a condition of the permit.
5. Passive solar design and other energy efficiency measures will often be better when solar is part of the design from the beginning.
6. Jobs are created. Jobs created this way can be sustained for a long period of time, resulting in many benefits to the local economy.
7. Each year will see additional solar behind the meter installed. This could provide 20 years of work as renewal of housing stock is brought through the system. Twenty years of solar through planning will likely equate to 150-200MW of installed generation due to an increasing average size of solar system.

We request that Council review the options for GHG abatement as part of this request for feedback, measuring the magnitude of each option where possible, and chart the results to see a comparison between solar in the planning system and other options presented to Council.

Council response:
The Maroondah Planning Scheme contains existing policy to achieve best practice in Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) from the design stage through to construction and operation. The policy seeks to facilitate development that minimises environmental impacts. It also encourages ESD that:

- Is consistent with the type and scale of the development.
- Responds to site opportunities and constraints.
- Adopts best practice through a combination of methods, processes and locally available technology that demonstrably minimise environmental impacts.

The policy uses the Built environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) which is used to assess applications for sustainable design. BESS allows for multiple options for demonstrating compliance, providing flexibility to achieve sustainable building outcomes. Solar panels are not the only option for reducing energy use and BESS allows for a range of options to be considered that consider building design, location and cost.

The State Government have also recently made a number of changes to what Councils are allowed to consider when assessing application for multi-unit developments, and in some cases the consideration of the ESD policy is not allowed. Recent changes have focused on streamlining the planning process and reducing housing costs. Council officers consider that it would be very unlikely that the State Government would support an amendment to the Maroondah Planning Scheme to require that solar panels be required on all new buildings. Council will continue to advocate for sustainable design outcomes to be supported through the Maroondah Planning Scheme.

Comment:
2. Plastic waste management

Plastics in packaging represent a significant proportion of waste and cost to the community. Plastics also represent a significant proportion of global GHG emissions particularly as scope 3 emissions for Council and its residents. Councils are a key stakeholder in the management chain of plastics, therefore Council has an obligation to improve management of plastics and packaging plastics in particular.

Council negotiates waste collection with other Councils in the region and the Contractor, therefore efforts to improve management of plastics in the waste stream should involve other Councils working together to demand best practice for the community. Councils should publicly collectively ask all stakeholders to respond to questions that show evidence of effort and progress to address plastic pollution and cost of recycling. All levels of government should be demanding best practice towards circular economy and non-toxic plastics. The presence of micro plastics in the food chain and links between degenerative brain diseases and micro plastics is sufficient cause to motivate Councils to act without delay. The following questions need to be answered:

1. Publicly ask major retailers to show what progress has been made to improve packaging to date (eg. Coles, Aldi and Woolworths).
2. Publicly ask major suppliers (manufacturers) of packaging to show what progress has been made to improve packaging.
3. Request proof of plans and intentions - show what improvements are in the pipeline.
4. Show intent for simplification of packaging to make recovery easier (complex mixes of materials are difficult to recover).
5. Show intent to reduce the diversity of plastics in packaging to make recovery easier (complex mixes of plastics are difficult to recover).
6. Additional questions that examine if Australian packaging is safe and at the standard of world's best practice.
7. Show progress towards bioplastic options that are not a source of micro plastics.

Council response:

Council has committed in its Waste, Litter & Resource Recovery Strategy to advocate for increasing product stewardship programs for problematic waste and improving product design to increase recyclability and recovery through mandatory packaging targets. Mandating that the types of materials that enter our market must be recoverable in local facilities, we see, as the first step for Australia in reducing plastic waste. This takes the guess work out of not knowing will end up in our waste streams and means our industry can build facilities to confidently meet the demands of new packaging entering the market.

Comment:
3. Stormwater management

The Greater Melbourne region is fortunate to have 25,000km of rivers and creeks and the magnificent Port Phillip Bay. This network of waterways helps to make Greater Melbourne one of the world's most liveable regions and Maroondah Council is a part of this network. Councils and organisations managing water make great efforts to protect our infrastructure and environment, yet despite this, our rivers and creeks remain under threat from polluted and high volume stormwater runoff. Sustainable stormwater engineering is essential to protect our natural and built environment for the future. Failure to do so will result in severe loss of tree canopy in periods of drought, destruction of waterways, pollution of Port Phillip Bay, increased flooding, increased road damage and increased damage to stormwater infrastructure (MCC has $600 million invested in infrastructure).

Councils and State Government have invested, and continue to invest, billions of dollars in roads and stormwater infrastructure. Implementing best practice in design can reduce the costs of new builds and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Best practice can also achieve better environmental outcomes that directly impact quality of life. Good engineering practice requires a continuous improvement culture. Many reports have been written on this subject showing opportunities to improve stormwater management yet the work has not been done. Integrated Water Management (IWM) policy has been created with the intent to work together, yet significant aspects of the plan have failed to meet expectations. If improvements do not occur in the near future, the outlook is for more destruction of the natural environment at increased cost to the government.

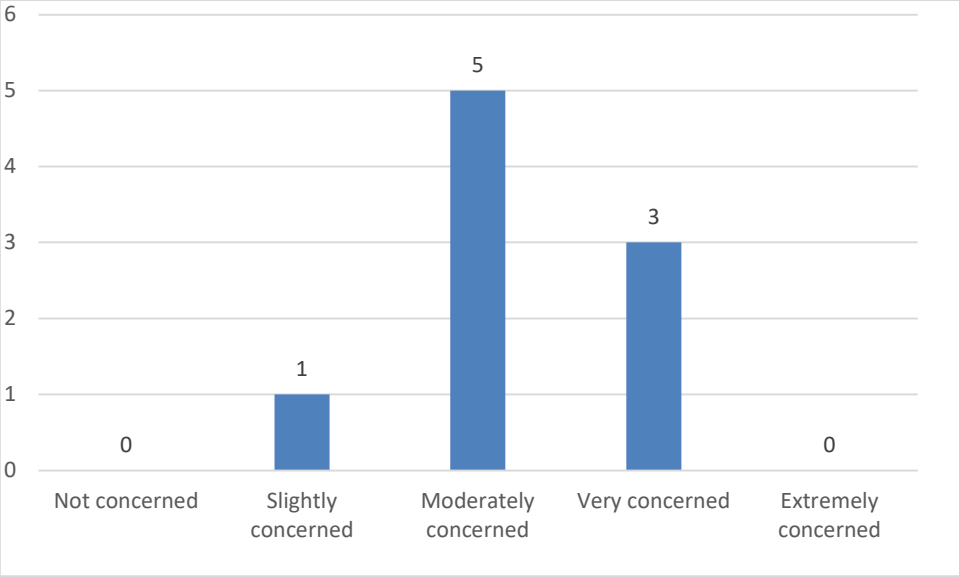
High rainfall events are predicted to be more prevalent under current levels of global warming, even if net zero emissions can be achieved in the future. This makes measures to manage stormwater and protect local waterway ecosystems of critical importance.

Council response:

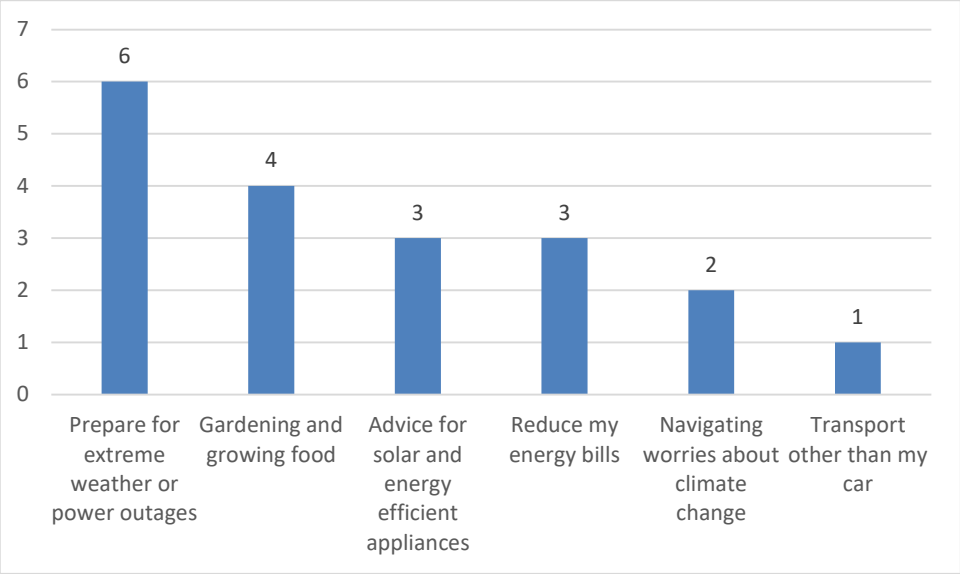
Council is planning on reviewing the Water Sensitive City Strategy in 2026. This will consider stormwater management, alongside management of local waterways.

Appendix 4: Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Consultation

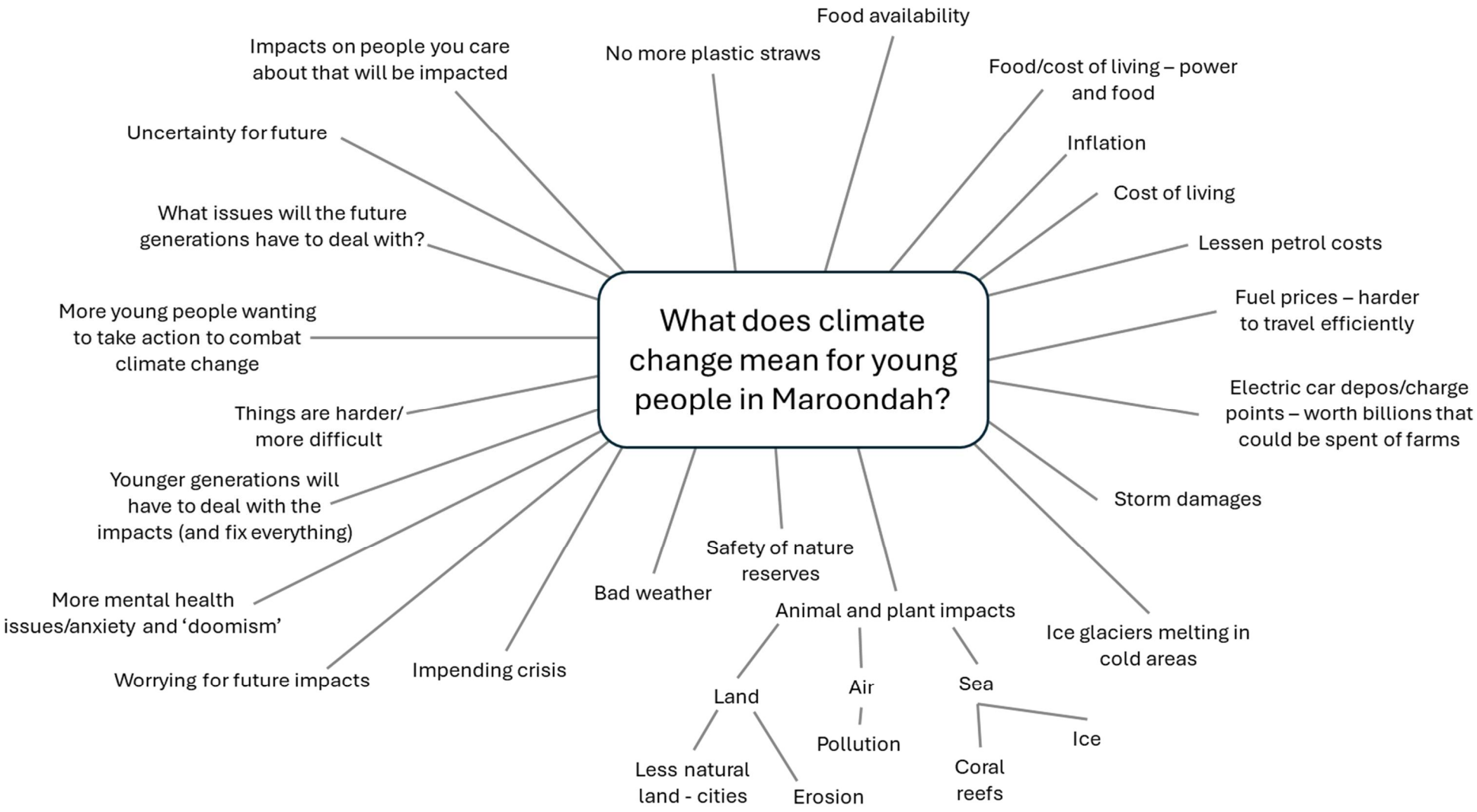
How concerned are you about climate change?



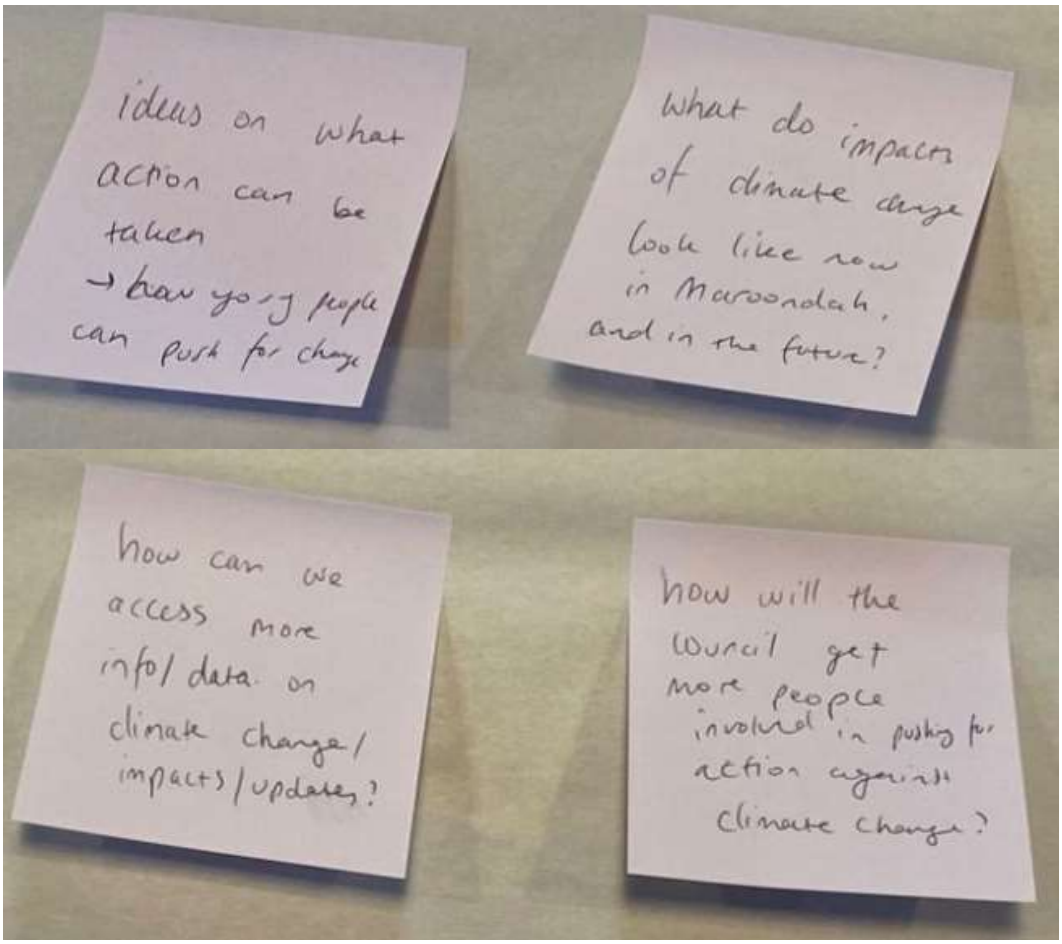
What would you like more information on?

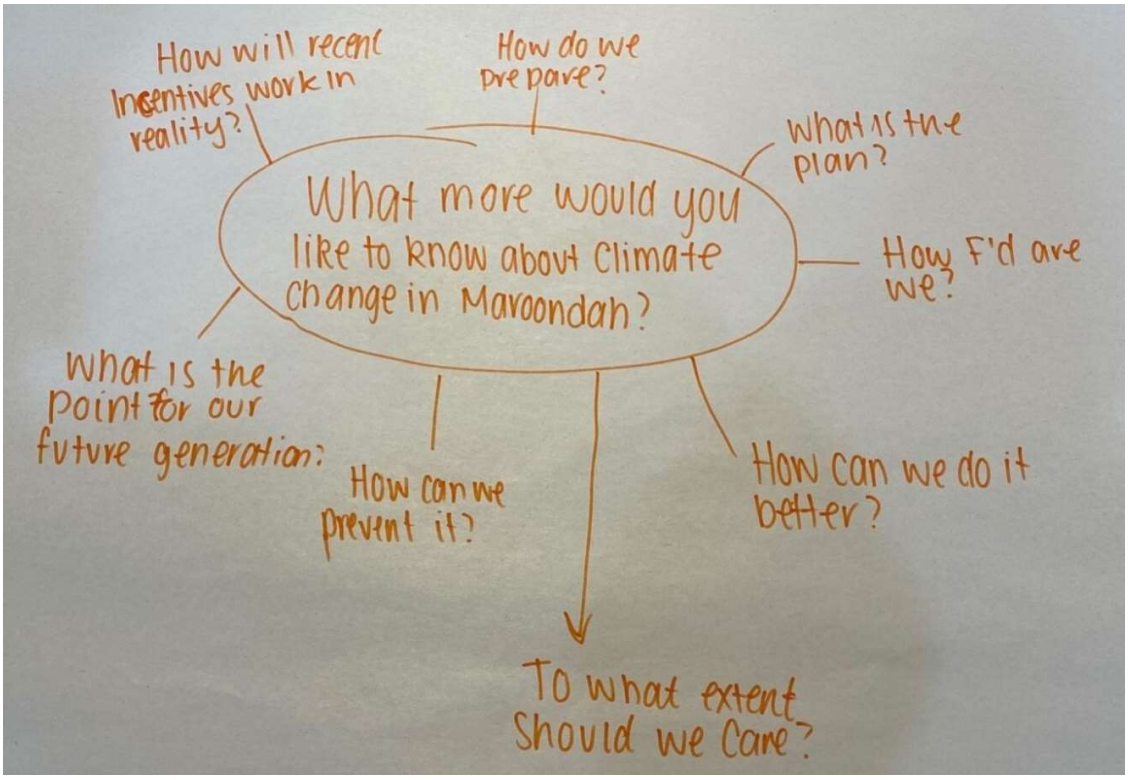


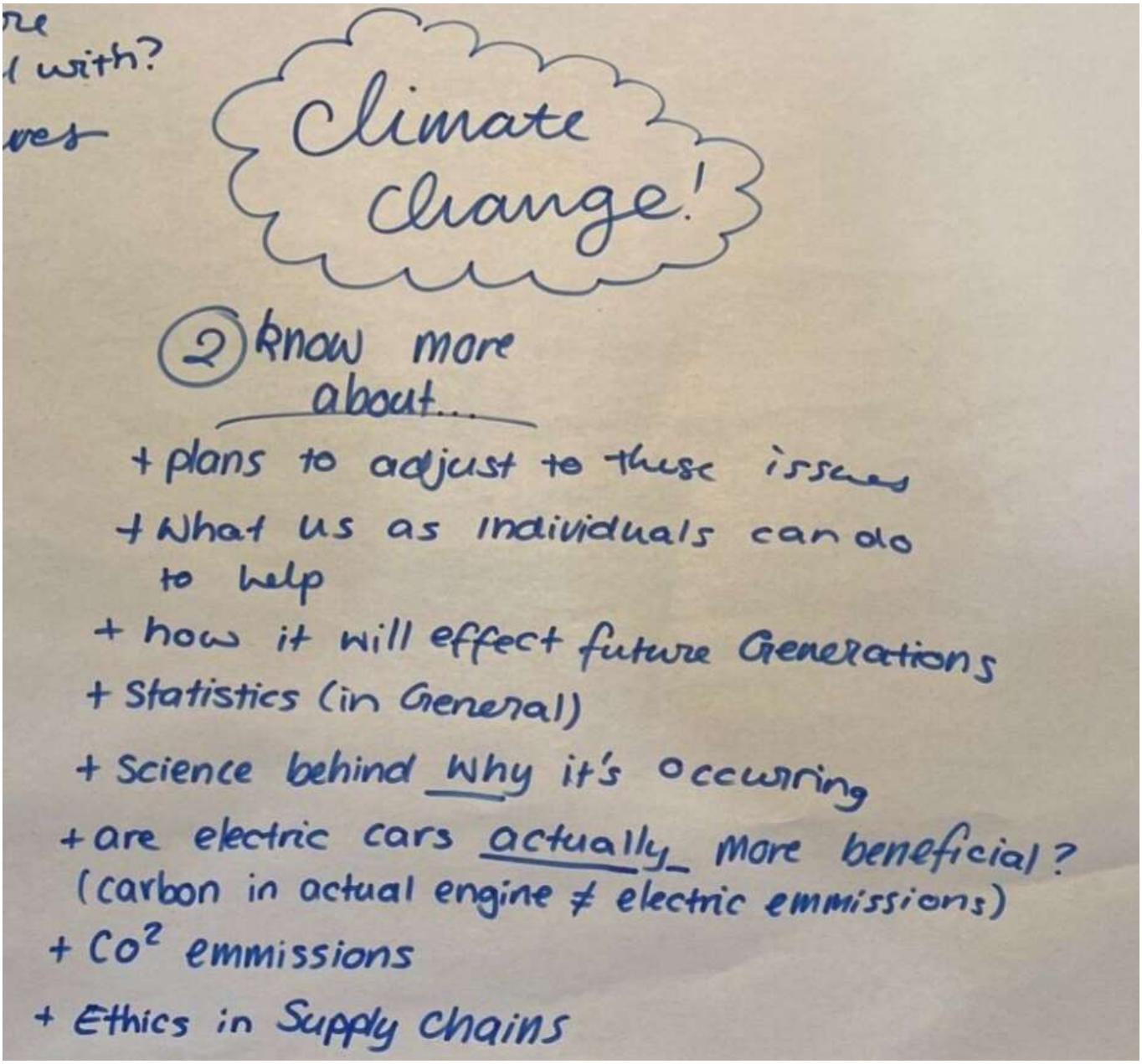
What does climate change mean for young people in Maroondah?



What more would you like to know about climate change in Maroondah?






re
l with?
ves
Climate Change!
2 know more about...
+ plans to adjust to these issues
+ What us as individuals can do to help
+ how it will effect future Generations
+ Statistics (in General)
+ Science behind Why it's occurring
+ are electric cars actually more beneficial? (carbon in actual engine ≠ electric emmissions)
+ Co2 emmissions
+ Ethics in Supply chains