



Climate Solutions Strategy

Adopted on 2 June 2026

A safe, sustainable,
vibrant **Community**



Kaurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we work, live and play on Kaurna Yarta. We respect the unique connection and relationship Kaurna Peoples have to Country and their ever enduring cultural heritage.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This is a Climate Emergency

Climate Change is happening here and now, with the potential to have wide ranging and compounding impact on Campbelltown City Council and our Community.

Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in 2019, Council established a Climate Solutions Advisory Committee (under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999), adopted a Climate Solutions Strategy, and is progressing with urgent action with respect to climate change. This strategy outlines the steps we will take to continue our work to reduce corporate and Community emissions, as well as ensuring our City is prepared for any future climate-related risks.

1.2 International and Local Climate Ambitions

This Climate Solutions Strategy (Climate Strategy) presents our commitment to do our part to tackle climate change in reference to international and local climate ambitions.

Globally, Australia is party to the Paris Agreement (2016). Under this, all parties agree to a goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

- Nationally, Under the Paris Agreement, Australia must submit emissions reduction commitments every 5 years. In September 2025, the Australian Federal Government committed to reduce emissions by 62–70% below 2005 levels by 2035. This reporting is in addition to the national target to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
- Guiding plans to support this, released in 2025 include; National Climate Risk Assessment, National Adaptation Plan and Australia's Net Zero Plan
- Australia has also endorsed at the UN general assembly both the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2015) which sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (2015), which sets a global blueprint for reduction of disasters.

The South Australian Government has targets to:

- Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 60% by 2030
- Achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Achieve 100% net renewable electricity generation by 2027.

Regional Climate Partnership

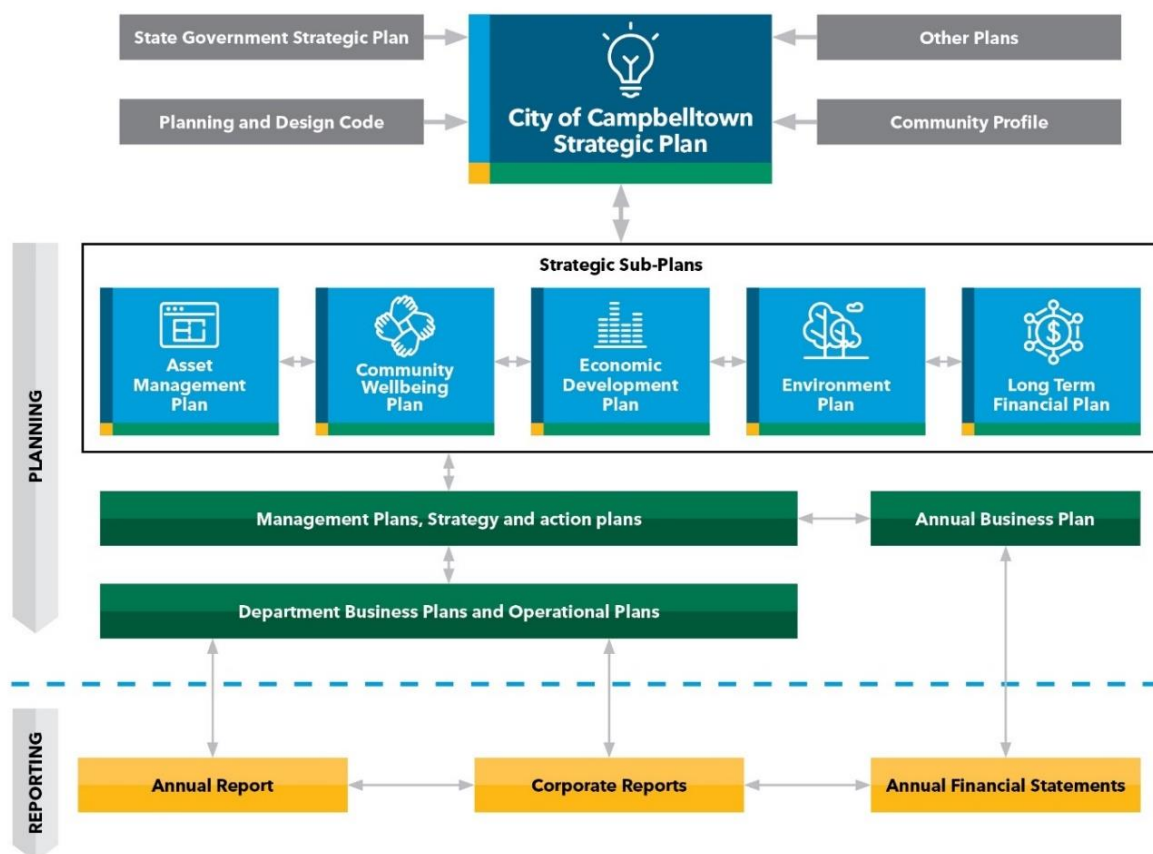
- City of Campbelltown is a project partner in Resilient East, a partnership with seven eastern Adelaide Councils and the State Government, committed to a coordinated response to climate change and preparing the eastern region to be climate ready.

1.3 Our Strategic Framework

The Campbelltown City Council's Strategic Plan 2028 sets out how Council will support a safe, sustainable, vibrant Community over the next four years. To achieve this vision, Council has direction through five sub-plans; Asset Management, Community Wellbeing, Economic Development, Environment, and a Long Term Financial Management Plan.

The Environment Plan 2028 promotes the importance of climate under Goal 1, 'Lead our City to a climate resilient, sustainable future'. This Climate Strategy sits under the Environment Plan as a supporting management Plan.

Figure 3 provides an overview of Council's strategic framework showing where this Strategy sits in relation to other Council documents.



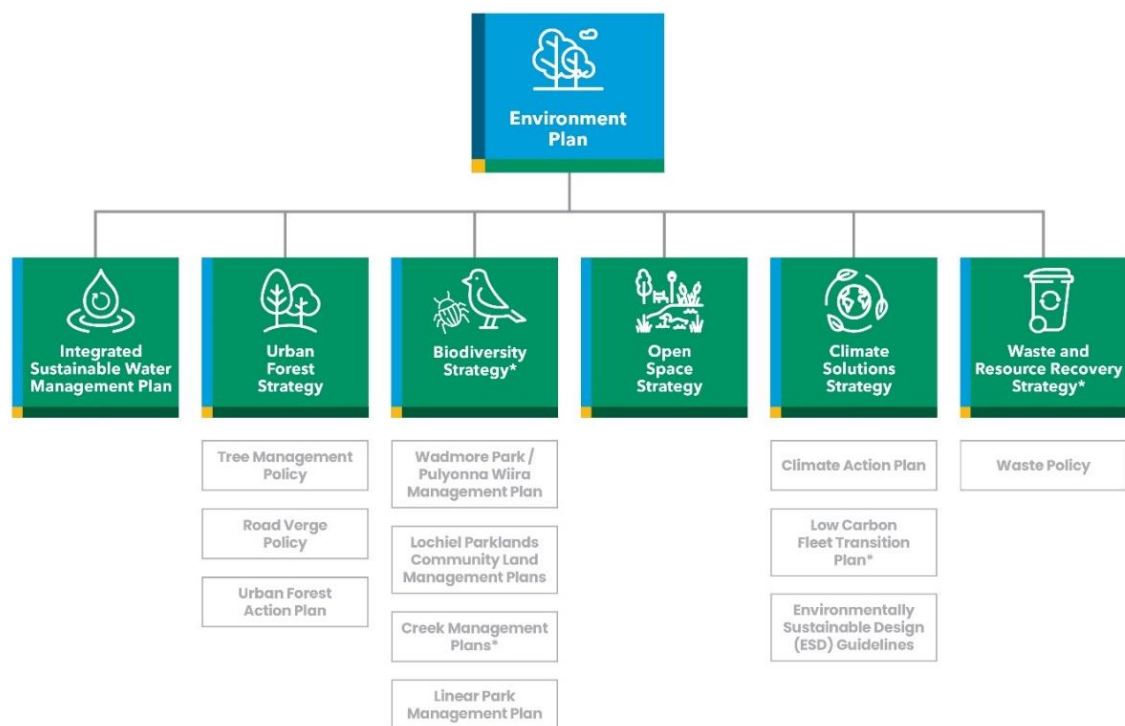


Figure 3: Campbelltown City Council's Strategic Framework

A Guiding Framework to Prioritise, Resource and Evaluate

It is intended that this Climate Strategy be an overarching, living document that provides a framework for Council in its response to current and future challenges presented by climate change. Therefore, all documents in tier 2 of the current environment plan will sit under an amalgamated Climate Solutions and Environment Plan. This is a transitional document which will replace the Environment Plan when it is due for review in 2028. The goals and focus areas set in this document will guide us to prioritise, resource, and evaluate our progress. The implementation of this Climate Strategy is supported by a separate Campbelltown Climate Action Plan, which will be updated to account for changing needs, updated information and emerging scientific research.

2. Context

2.1 Let's talk Climate Change

In the last four decades, Earth's climate has been unequivocally warming up. The latest IPCC report¹ has outlined that each decade has been successively warmer than the last, and that without intervention, more climate-related impacts can be expected in the coming years. We are now experiencing global temperature rising, oceans warming, rainfall patterns changing, and extreme weather events becoming more intense and destructive.

The City of Campbelltown declared a Climate Emergency in late 2019, established a Climate Solutions Advisory Committee (under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999), adopted a Climate Solutions Strategy in 2021, and is progressing with urgent action with respect to climate change.

Understanding Climate Risk

We need to understand the risks we face from climate change so we can take action to safeguard the things that we value as a Community. The National Climate Risk Assessment² paints a very clear picture of how risks can compound, cascade, and aggregate across multiple systems.

This section explores how this affects our Community and Council.

In Eastern Adelaide, the changes we are already experiencing include:



More frequent, long running and intense heatwaves



More frequent and extreme fire danger days



Less overall rain, but more intense storms and flooding



Increased average temperatures across all seasons

¹ IPCC, 2023, 'Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report Summary for policymakers'

² Australian Climate Service, 2025, 'Australia's National Climate Risk Assessment: An Overview'

What does this mean for the Community?

Climate change will disproportionately affect our Community as the exposure and ability to adapt to climate risks vary depending on location, geography, and socio-economic status. Some of these effects may include:

Economic / cost of living

- Rising food costs as the local and global agriculture industry is impacted and supply chains are disrupted
- Increased utility costs due to increasing demand (larger need for watering, air-conditioning, etc)
- Property value loss in identified high-risk bushfire and flood areas
- More incidences of property damage from extreme weather events
- Increased economic inequality as parts of our community has less ability to prevent and adapt

Natural Environment

- Increased need for watering
- Change in creek water courses from erosion and sudden, heavy storms
- Reduced tree resiliency
- Biodiversity and ecosystem loss
- Increase in weeds, pests and disease that thrive in new climate

Health and wellbeing

- Increased climate anxiety and other related mental distress
- Increased health and morbidity risks for communities who are more susceptible to extreme weather impacts including; financially disadvantaged households, the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions and disability
- Rise of communicable diseases, including vector-borne diseases from mosquitoes and ticks³
- Impacts on Community sporting events e.g. Increased need to cancel or shift playing games and times of practice
- Increased anti-social behaviour

³ Australian Climate Service, 2025, 'Australia's National Climate Risk Assessment: An Overview'

What does this mean for the Council?

Climate change will also affect the way Council operates:

Financial

- Resourcing diverted for disaster recovery, impacting productivity during extreme weather events
- Increased operational costs due to increase in energy and water prices
- Reduced productivity due to heat lethargy
- Increased insurance costs
- Increased financial implications as demand for disaster recovery and future risk mitigation increases on top of regular services Council provides
- Disruption to supply chains for services

Community Wellbeing & Support

- Increased demand for community support and shelters during emergencies
- Community events impacted in extreme weather events

Environment

- Change in requirements for parks and garden management
- Increased demand for investment in water, greening, and public spaces for Community to find relief in extreme weather events
- Increased water security risks and competition for water
- Increased need for proactive and reactive tree management

Buildings and infrastructure

- Increased requirements for future-proofing stormwater infrastructure
- Increased maintenance needs for all assets

2.2 Safe, Sustainable, Vibrant City

We have an understanding of the climate risks facing our City and their potential impacts. To ensure a safe, sustainable, and vibrant future for Campbelltown, we are committed to a proactive and inclusive approach to climate adaptation:

Our Approach to Adaptation

Collaborative action

Council will work closely with our Community, local organisations, and other stakeholders to design solutions that reflect shared values and priorities.

Resilience building

Resilience is how well we can respond to external shocks and stresses, bouncing back from negative impacts. Building our collective resilience involves strengthening social cohesion, enhancing community networks, and sharing local knowledge.

Caring and connected communities

A caring, connected and collaborative approach will help ensure Campbelltown remains a place where people want to live, work and play.

Enhancing Community connection is one of the most powerful tools we have toward enhancing resilience in a changing climate.

Risk-informed planning

Council will assess and plan for climate risks to safeguard infrastructure, continuity of services, and capability of staff and volunteers. This includes integrating climate risk into asset management, planning, urban design and programs for our community.

Embracing innovation

Council has the opportunity to trial new approaches toward reducing climate risk. We will be bold and incorporate innovative, best practice approaches and review their effectiveness in the short and long term.

Place-based solutions

Adaptation efforts will be grounded in the unique social, environmental, and cultural values of each locality within Campbelltown. Council aim to work with the local community to understand place-specific challenges and opportunities, empowering those best placed to drive the changes and protect what our Community values most.

2.3 Our Emissions

We have come a long way, but there is much more to be done. It is important to understand our emissions profile so that a tailored, evidence-based response can be developed moving forward.

Emissions

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions can be broadly categorized into three scopes:

Scope 1 emissions are the result of emissions from sources directly owned or controlled by an organisation. This includes emissions from fuel combustion in vehicles, plant equipment, and boilers. Specifically for Council, the use of natural gas for the ARC Campbelltown currently made up 43% of Council's total Scope 1 emissions in 2024/25.

Scope 2 emissions are the indirect emissions associated with purchase of electricity generated from fossil fuel. For the Council, electricity usage at the ARC Campbelltown and city-wide public street lighting accounted for 42% and 25% of Scope 2 emissions respectively.

Scope 3 emissions are the result of emissions from an organisation's value chain while they service and support the organisation's activities. For Council, these are indirect emissions occurring from upstream and downstream activities required for the Council to perform its day-to-day activities.

As Council has direct control of our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, reducing our emissions in these areas will be a key priority in our Climate Strategy. For our Scope 3 emissions, where we have less control, we will aim to use our purchasing power to influence and drive organisations in our value chain to do the same. However, we acknowledge that this will be a longer process as it will be highly dependent on international, federal and state action in driving low carbon materials and new technologies. For this, we will aim to advocate for change.

Tracking Council Emissions

For the purpose of tracking our climate response progress, carbon emission data from the 2018/19 financial year is used as baseline. This FY was selected to remove bias from COVID-19 conditions.

In 2018/19, Council emitted a total of 18,810 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent greenhouse gas emissions directly (Scope 1 Emissions) and indirectly (Scope 2 and 3 Emissions) across the activities it carried out.

A breakdown of Council's emission profile has been developed in line with GHG protocol (2015) corporate accounting and reporting standard to ensure consistency with industry best practice.

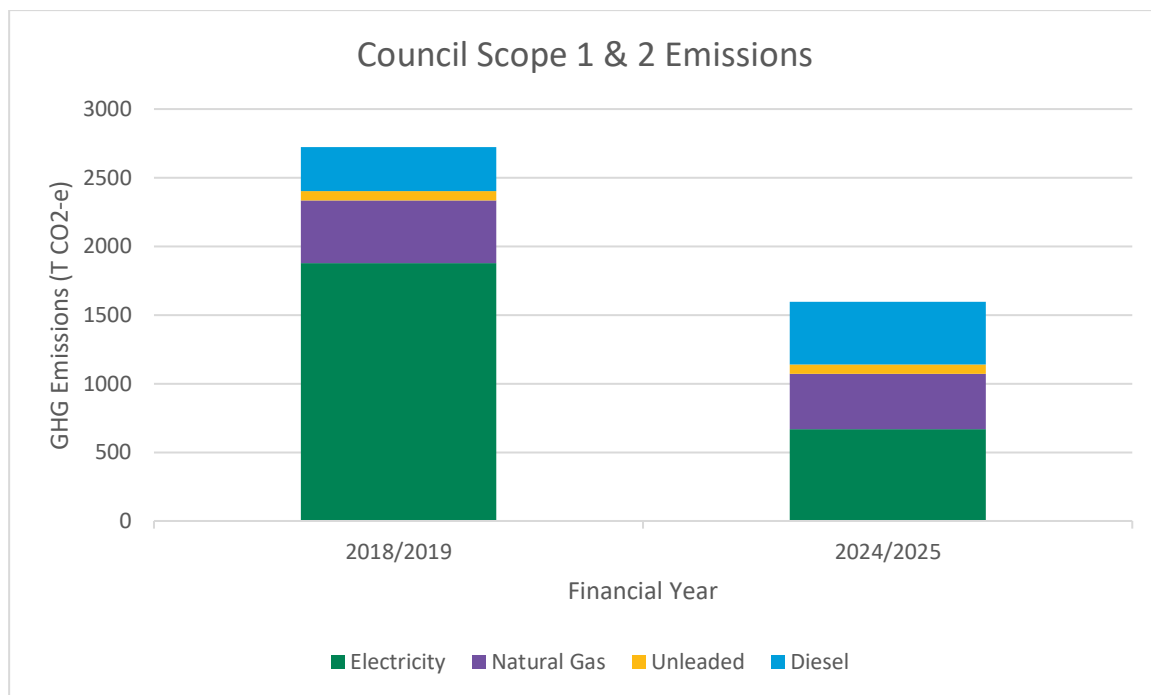


Figure 4: Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions profile comparison for the 2018/19 and 2024/25 financial years

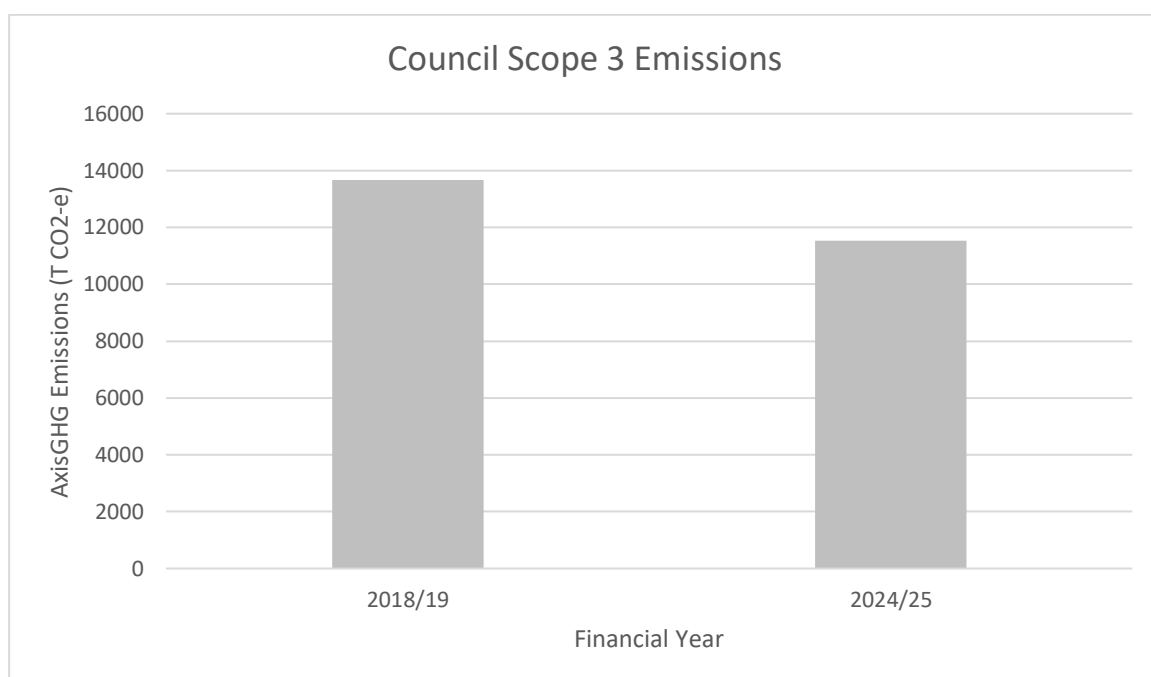


Figure 5: Council's scope 3 emissions profile comparison for the 2018/19 and 2024/25 financial years

Community Emissions

City wide emissions tracking is complex and evolving. In 2018/19, city-wide emissions were obtained from Snapshot5 and were developed in accordance with the industry best practice GHG Protocol Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC). The Snapshot tool is no longer available for emissions tracking, however, over the time of the strategy, the State Government has matured in state-wide emissions reporting. We will monitor community emissions through State Government reporting.

Although Council does not have direct control over Community emissions, we can support and influence a change through:

- Providing the resources for Community to assess their own climate resiliency risks and identify opportunities for change
- Providing public amenities (e.g. bike paths and electric vehicle charging stations) and financial support to incentivise sustainable choices
- Advocating for climate change improvements on Local, State, and National levels.

3. Our Achievements

Campbelltown has a long standing history of responding to climate change. Our journey began as far back as 2009 and has continued.

Significant achievements have been made since the adoption of the first Climate Solutions Strategy in 2021 including;

- Reducing Council emissions by 41% (scope 1 & 2) and procured 100% renewable electricity to power Council.
- Improving energy efficiency of Council buildings with 10 building energy audits
- Installing a total of 370kW rooftop solar and 120kWh batteries on Council buildings.
- Replacing 4 petrol fleet vehicles with Electric Vehicles (including 2 electric vans).
- Installing 5 public Electric Vehicle charging stations
- Providing new community grants for electric and cargo bikes, verge greening and significant tree assistance
- Planting 1,200 street trees annually
- Installing 21 smart watering meters
- Incorporating Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) into building projects and maintenance
- Hosting Community events like the Sustainable Homes Expo, Electric Vehicle Expo, and Campbelltown Community Renewables Program
- Establishing the Campbelltown Cool Spaces, the 1st cool spaces program in Australia
- Trialling a sustainable kerbside waste collection, Weekly FOGO, which increased waste diversion from landfill by 12%
- Incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) into urban planning and construction
- Doubling aquifer storage capacity to 100ML for sustainable irrigation of Thorndon Park and Steve Woodcock Sportsfield
- Collaborating on joint advocacy communication and improved data capture projects through our Resilient East partnership
- Increasing knowledge of Council staff

4. Our Climate Strategy

4.1 Principles

Vision: Leading our City towards a climate-resilient and sustainable future.

This strategy follows the following principles to guide our decision making and approach.



We recognise escalating climate related risks as one of Council's key strategic risk



We will reduce our own emissions, as well as support our Community to do the same



We will work with our Community to deliver adaptation approaches that are tailored and responsive to prepare for a liveable future for Campbelltown



We will support, collaborate and share our knowledge with our Community and other partners in our climate journey.
i.e. we do not do things in isolation.



We are a leader in responding to climate change and Climate change considerations are embedded in everything we do.



Our climate response is based on evidence, current best practice and Community needs.

4.2 Strategy on a Page

1	Reduce Emissions
1.1	Net Zero
1.1.1	Improve energy efficiency of Council assets
1.1.2	Transition to clean energy
1.2	Reduce Community Emissions
1.2.1	Provide information and opportunities for Community to reduce emissions
1.2.2	Provide infrastructures and services to support emissions reduction
2	Prepare our City
2.1	Council assets and services are resilient
2.1.1	Embed Environmentally Sustainable Design in all Council assets and council managed land
2.1.2	Continue to assess, maintain and upgrade Council assets with consideration of climate change risks
2.1.3	Investigate and implement preventative measures to protect Council assets and green assets on Council managed land in climate emergency situations
2.2	Community is connected and climate changed focused
2.2.1	Engage and share with the Community about climate change impact risks and opportunities
2.2.2	Investigate opportunities to incentivise and promote sustainable developments and local business across the city
2.2.3	Continue to support the Community to be prepared in climate emergency situations
3	Be Sustainable
3.1	Climate is embedded in everything we do
3.1.1	Create a Climate skilled workforce
3.1.2	Reaffirm and/or establish partnerships with other organisations to tackle climate change
3.1.3	Advocate for climate change improvements at local, state, and national levels.
3.1.4	Climate Change is considered alongside the Environment Plan as a key pillar in Councils strategic planning structure

4.3 Goals

Goal 1: Reduce Emissions

We will proactively reduce Council's direct contribution to climate change; and we will empower our community to do the same.

Our Commitment to Net Zero

Net Zero means balancing the emissions we produce with those that are removed from the atmosphere. For Council, this means:

- doing our best to reduce our emissions as low as possible,
- avoiding new emissions by embedding sustainability into decision-making and procurement
- for emissions we cannot eliminate, offsetting through credible carbon removal methods such as nature-based solutions and verified offset programs.

For Council investment to be sustainable, emission reduction activities should be combined with adaptation activities.

Focus Area	Performance indicator
1.1 Net Zero Corporate Emissions	Eliminate Scope 1 emissions by 2035 Eliminate Scope 2 emissions by 2025 Reduce Scope 3 emissions by 10% by 2035
1.1.1 Improve energy efficiency of Council assets	Energy Efficiency Audits recommendations implemented. Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Guidelines implemented
1.1.2 Transition to clean energy	No new gas connections installed in Council owned buildings. Existing gas in Council operations and buildings transitioned to electric where possible.
1.2 Reduce Community Emissions	Reduction of 60% by 2030
1.2.1 Provide information and opportunities for Community to reduce emissions	E-bike rebate scheme trialled Community Renewables scheme reviewed
1.2.2 Provide infrastructures and services to support emissions reduction	Community Electric Vehicle Charging network reviewed

Goal 2: Prepare our City

We will take action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.

This includes delivering a cooler, greener and more resilient City and Community through combining the focus areas below with delivery on Council's other strategies including the Urban Forest Strategy, Open Space Strategy and Asset Management Plans.

Focus Area	Performance indicator
2.1 Council assets and services are resilient	
2.1.1 Embed Environmentally Sustainable Design in all Council assets and council managed land	ESD considered in all new major infrastructure projects ESD Guidelines for roads, footpaths and other built environments developed
2.1.2 Continue to assess, maintain and upgrade Council assets with consideration of climate change risks	ESD considerations included in all existing infrastructure and maintenance projects. Asset Management Plan update includes Climate risk assessment.
2.1.3 Investigate and implement preventative measures to protect Council assets and green assets on Council managed land in climate emergency situations	Urban Forest Strategy implemented. Biodiversity Strategy developed Emergency management plans reviewed. Regional Stormwater Management Plan development supported. Asset Management Plan update supported

2.2 Community is connected and climate changed focused

2.2.1	Engage and share with the Community about climate change impact risks and opportunities	Community adaptation engagement activities continued
2.2.2	Investigate opportunities to incentivise and promote sustainable developments and local business across the city	Sustainable Businesses promoted
2.2.3	Continue to support the Community to be prepared in climate emergency situations	Cool Spaces Program implemented. Business Continuity / Disaster Response Plan reviewed. Bushfire ready Community preparations supported

Goal 3: Be Sustainable

Sustainability is:

Long-lasting

We want to ensure that the future will be a safe one and that the strategies and solutions we put in place will have long-lasting effects. For this, continuous efforts will be needed long after we are gone. Good governance, advocacy for change at a higher level, capacity building and behavioral change will be important.

Everyone’s responsibility.

We are all interconnected. While some of us will be more equipped to adapt to climate change implications than others, supporting and helping each other become resilient can only benefit us all. Each generation, culture, and Community have a wealth of knowledge and there is much we can learn from each other. Our climate response will draw on this and take advantage of the diversity we have in Campbelltown.

A balanced approach

Although we are acting with a sense of urgency, our climate response should be one that is carefully considered such that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The financial and economic implications for our City will be weighed against actions we take to ensure value-for-money and financial stability.

Focus Area	Performance indicator
3.1 Climate is embedded in everything we do	
3.1.1 Create a Climate skilled workforce	Current capacity identified and skills improvement process implemented.
3.1.2 Reaffirm and/or establish partnerships with other organisations to tackle climate change	Resilient East partnership continued. Meaningfully contributed to regional climate adaptation.
3.1.3 Advocate for climate change improvements at local, state, and national levels.	State and Federal government processes responded to.
3.1.4 Climate Change is considered alongside the Environment Plan as a key pillar in Councils strategic planning structure	Environment Plan and Climate Strategy amalgamated by 2029

Glossary

Carbon Emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are typically referred to as carbon emissions and are a measure of GHG.

Carbon Footprint

Total amount of GHG generated. Typically used to show the level of climate change impacts from an activity.

Carbon Offset

A form of strategy used to balance unavoidable carbon emissions, either through carbon capture projects (e.g. tree planting) or purchase of carbon credits.

Climate Adaptation

Adjusting to life in an inevitably changing climate.

Climate Mitigation

Preventative actions or measures to reduce GHG emissions.

Climate Resiliency

Capacity to weather through and recover quickly from climate-related challenges

Net Zero

Net zero means cutting carbon emissions to a small amount of residual emissions that can be absorbed and durably stored by nature and other carbon dioxide removal measures.

Embodied carbon

Carbon emissions associated with materials and construction processes (material extraction, production, manufacture, transport, etc.) throughout the whole lifecycle of a building or infrastructure

Greenhouse Gas (GHG)

Gasses that contributes to the absorption of heat in Earth's atmosphere, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Renewable Energy

Energy generated from natural resources that are naturally replenished and/or never run out.

Urban Forest

All trees and shrubs located across the City on public and private land.