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# Introduction

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## ABOUT THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

The draft Zero Carbon Moreland Action Plan summarises key activities to influence and reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions across the energy, transport and waste sectors. The draft Action Plan aligns with the recently adopted Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy (2019) and Waste and Litter Strategy (2018).

The draft Action Plan proposes specific and measurable goals for Council (with their partners) and the Moreland community to strive to achieve by 2025. Council and their delivery partners (including Australian Energy Foundation and CERES) will continue to collaborate with others, including the Victorian Government (and its agencies such as Sustainability Victoria) and neighbouring councils, to bring people together to learn, engage and act. Council will continue striving to 'walk the talk' in its own services, facilities and operations, with key initiatives in waste services, fleet, procurement and buildings.

Because Council cannot 'control' many of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions within the community, they are inviting everyone; individuals, community groups, schools, businesses and not-for-profit organisations to plan and act – within their sphere of control and influence - to reduce carbon emissions and join the campaign to demand action for a safe climate.

## ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement element of this project has two distinct aims:

1. Test the ideas in the plan with the community and stakeholders to understand the level of support for these goals and actions.
2. Engage with community members and organisations who have an interest in partnering with Moreland City Council to achieve goals and outcomes in the plan.

## Engagement process

Engagement on the draft Action Plan included community meetings, targeted focus groups (with public and Council staff), an online survey and an opportunity to make a written submission on the Action Plan or part of the Action Plan. Specifically, the following activities occurred as part of the engagement process:

- One online survey with 28 responses.
- One 'pop up' consultation at the community event 'What's Your 2040 Moreland?' with 110 responses.
- 15 written submissions from individuals.
- Four written submissions from the following community/external organisations:

- Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)
- Jesuit Social Service Ecological Justice Hub
- Climate Action Moreland
- Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc (NECCHI).
- Three written submissions from Council departments/units.
- Four targeted focus groups with 46 community members attending at:
  - Sustainable Moreland Advisory Group
  - Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)
  - Oxygen Youth Space
  - CERES.
- Four targeted meeting with Council staff with 54 people attending from the following departments:
  - Arts and Culture
  - Transport
  - Youth Services
  - Community Wellbeing.

A total of 260 individuals and organisations were engaged and provided feedback throughout the consultation process.

#### Indicating priorities for action at What's your Moreland 2040? Event



# Key themes

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The results of all the engagement activities have been analysed to understand any reoccurring themes that have emerged throughout the engagement activities. The key themes to emerge from the engagement were:

- There is overall agreement on the proposed community goals across all engagement activities.
- Five people of the 260 engaged had concerns relating to the goals, specifically; scepticism about climate change or about Council's capacity to influence it, transport and parking issues and concerns over changes to garbage collection services.
- Some respondents felt the goals were too modest and the timeline to reduce carbon should be brought forward to 2030 or 2025.
- There was recognition of the need to engage the wider community in issues relating to climate change in order to affect change.
- There was recognition of the importance of public reporting on outcomes to engage and encourage the community.
- A number of community groups and agencies articulated a firm desire to work more closely with Council to deliver programs and services.
- A recognition that public transport and walking and cycling infrastructure needs to be improved if people are expected to reduce their car travel.
- Staff expressed a need to link the draft Action Plan to the Statement of Commitment to Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Communities, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) communications and a Social Justice agenda.
- Staff recognised that there are challenges to implementation as a result of financial constraints, lack of leadership by other levels of government, working in silos and lack of broad community engagement.
- Staff believed there were opportunities to embed actions in KPIs, work with other councils, reallocate budget, have leadership from senior staff and improve communications.

# Results in detail

This section outlines the results of the community engagement activities. The results have been organised into the three key themes of the plan being energy transition, sustainable transport and waste and consumption. Many comments cross themes and these have been presented where most appropriate.

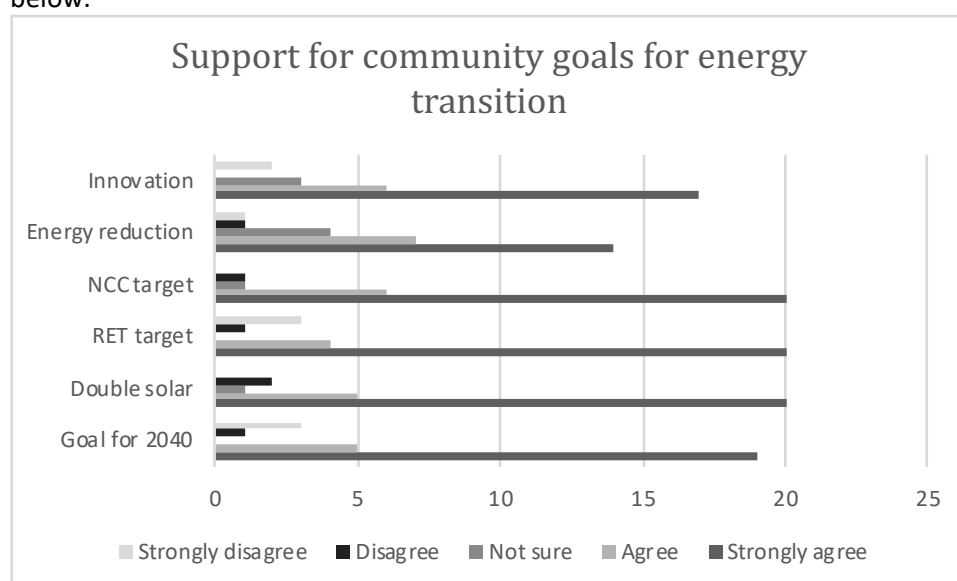
## ENERGY TRANSITION

### Survey results

The online survey asked respondents to express their agreement on the draft Action Plan community goals. The specific Energy Transition goals being:

- Goal for 2040: Efficient and 100 per cent renewable powered energy.
- Double the amount of solar power capacity installed across Moreland (from 22MW to 44MW).
- Through successful advocacy, the National Renewable Energy Target (RET) is reset so that at least 80 per cent of Australia's electricity generation is renewable by 2030.
- Through successful advocacy, the National Construction Code (NCC) has increased the thermal performance standard of new dwellings from 6-star to 8-stars by 2025.
- Residential energy use in Moreland has reduced from the current average of 4.8KWh per person per day to 4KWh per person per day.
- Ensure that the Moreland community continues to be recognised for its innovation and leadership in energy transition.

A total of 28 people responded to these questions and the results are provided in the graph below.



## Further comments including areas of disagreement

There was support for all goals ranging from 75 per cent agree or strongly agree (residential energy use) to 93 per cent agree or strongly agree (NCC advocacy). Respondents who did not agree with the goals indicated a need for more ambitious goals (four respondents) or that climate change is not man made or is not Council's responsibility (two respondents).

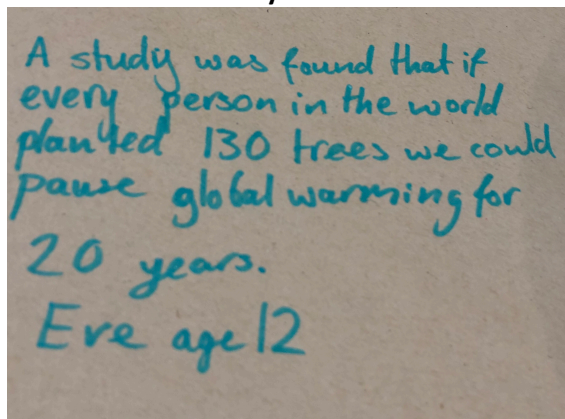
## Comments and submissions

Community members and organisations had an opportunity to provide feedback at the pop-up consultation activity, 'What's your 2040, Moreland?' or make a written submission via the Council website. An analysis of their comments is provided below.

### 2040 Community pop-up

People attending the 'What's your Moreland 2040?' Community event were asked for their top priorities relating to Zero Carbon Moreland ZCM. A total of 13 per cent of people indicated going solar as their top priority with a further 9 per cent indicating saving energy. Other comments related to the need to reduce coal usage, make solar easier to obtain for low income families and renters, increase solar on Council buildings and increase planning controls to ensure low energy buildings.

### Comment at 'What's your Moreland 2040?'



### Submissions

Submissions from individual and community groups were broadly positive. The majority of comments related to increasing the use of solar in Council facilities and developing schemes to help residents, particularly those with lower incomes, in rental housing or in apartments to use solar. Some specific comments included:

- Solar panels/water tanks to be bought through rates.
- The inclusion of solar and battery options in all new apartments.
- Drawdown – this was mentioned specifically on two occasions. Climate Action Moreland made a strong case for drawdown through urban forestation, advocacy for the maintenance of high carbon forests in the Central Highlands and investigation into the use of biochar.

### **Staff comments related to energy transition**

There is a commitment to improve sustainability across the Arts and Culture Branch at events and general operations. There is recognition that energy transition will impact more on vulnerable people in the community.

### **Community groups identified as interested in engaging with Council**

The following groups were identified as potential partners for Council to work with on energy transition:

- Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)
- Local schools
- Good Karma Network
- Newlands Parents for Climate Action
- Extinction Rebellion Moreland
- Moreland Bicycle Users Group
- Jesuit Social Services Ecological Justice Hub
- The Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc (NECCHI).

### **What can Moreland do to assist you?**

Areas where community groups could be assisted by Moreland City Council included:

- Promotion of groups, their services and programs
- Assistance with providing information relating to climate change and Council programs
- Grants and funding to increase programs and activities
- Providing opportunities for groups to network
- Asset improvements (e.g. Neighbourhood Houses).



**Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc (NECCHI)** run two Neighbourhood Houses in Newlands and Coburg. They have a strong commitment to reducing their carbon footprint and educating and empowering the community. They are currently developing an action plan to help them achieve their vision. They aim to consider all elements of NECCHI's operations and identify and prioritise actions to reduce carbon emissions and areas impacted by climate change, including:

1. Energy and water use and infrastructure
2. Room rental, catering & events
3. Materials/procurement and engaging local sustainable businesses
4. Waste
5. Sustainable transport to houses.

NECCHI are keen to work with Moreland City Council who could link them with other groups, assist in upgrades of the Neighbourhood Houses and promote their work throughout the community. NECCHI have good links to their local community and can assist in education and engagement activities.

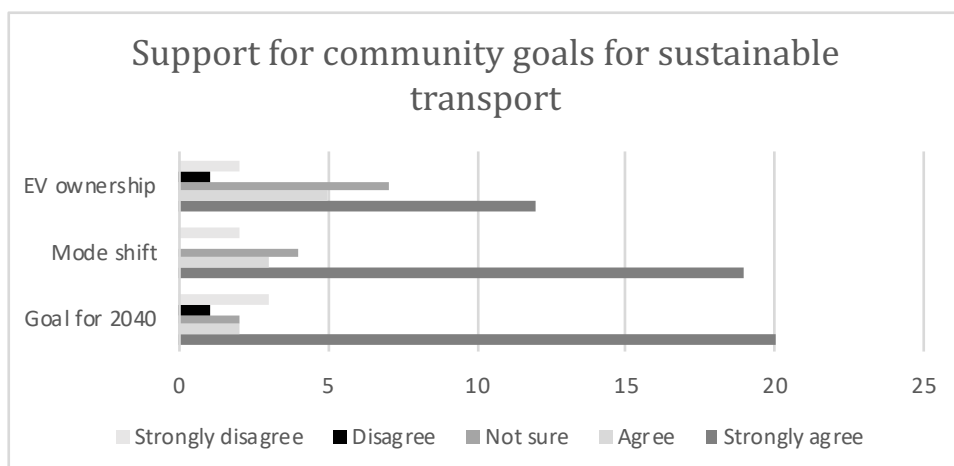
## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

### Survey results

The online survey asked respondents to express their agreement on the draft Action Plan community goals. The specific transport goals being:

- Goal for 2040: Active and zero emissions transport.
- The proportion of Moreland residents travelling to work by car is significantly reduced.
- Ownership of electric vehicles in Moreland is above the Melbourne metropolitan average.

A total of 28 people responded to these questions and the results are provided in the graph below.



### Further comments including areas of disagreement

79 per cent of respondents supported the 2040 goal and the mode shift goals with 61 per cent supporting the EV ownership goal. Respondents who did not fully support the goals indicated the need for better walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure to help meet goals (four respondents). One had concerns related to the electric vehicle target which may measure wealth rather than sustainability. The target of being above average (relating to EV ownership rates) was not enough for the 'progressive North' according to one respondent. One comment related to the targets being too modest and one requested that parking not be removed in Sydney Road.

### Comments and submissions

Community members and organisations had an opportunity to provide feedback at the pop-up consultation activity at 'What's your 2040, Moreland?' or to submit a submission via the Council website. An analysis of their comments is provided below.

#### 2040 Community Pop up

People attending the 'What's your Moreland 2040?' community event were asked for their top priorities relating to Zero Carbon Moreland. A total of 15 per cent indicated that 'travel smarter' was their top priority. Some of the ideas they had to make this happen included to improve walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure along with providing infrastructure for electric vehicles. They also suggested making better walking spaces and car free zones.

#### Submissions

Submissions were broadly positive on this goal however there was some concern expressed about the poor quality of services and infrastructure such as public transport, bicycle paths, walking facilities and electric vehicle charging stations. There were some concerns related to parking. Specific comments/ideas included:

- Better infrastructure for cycling, walking and electric vehicles.

*Create “wellbeing routes” to encourage people to walk*

Participant at ‘What’s your Moreland 2040?’ Pop-up

*Make streets more accessible to people with a disability*

Participant at ‘What’s your Moreland 2040?’ Pop-up

Areas that were considered to be missing from the plan were advocacy on reducing air travel, support for a recognition of the potential importance of hydrogen and low emission fuels and the recognition that cyclists and pedestrian require different infrastructure.

### **Staff comments related to sustainable transport**

Staff from Transport and Youth Services were actively engaged in supporting and promoting sustainable transport. They identified opportunities to promote the independent mobility and health aspects of sustainable transport particularly relating to children. They also identified opportunities to promote infrastructure projects around improved safety and access to facilities.

### **Community groups identified as interested in engaging with Council**

- Neighbours United for climate Action (NUCA)
- Revitalise Sydney Road
- Upfield Transport Alliance
- Moreland Bicycle Users Group.

### **What can Moreland do to assist you?**

In terms of transport the key areas where assistance was requested related to improvements in infrastructure for cycling and walking as well as advocacy for the improvement of public transport infrastructure and services. EV charging stations were also considered important.

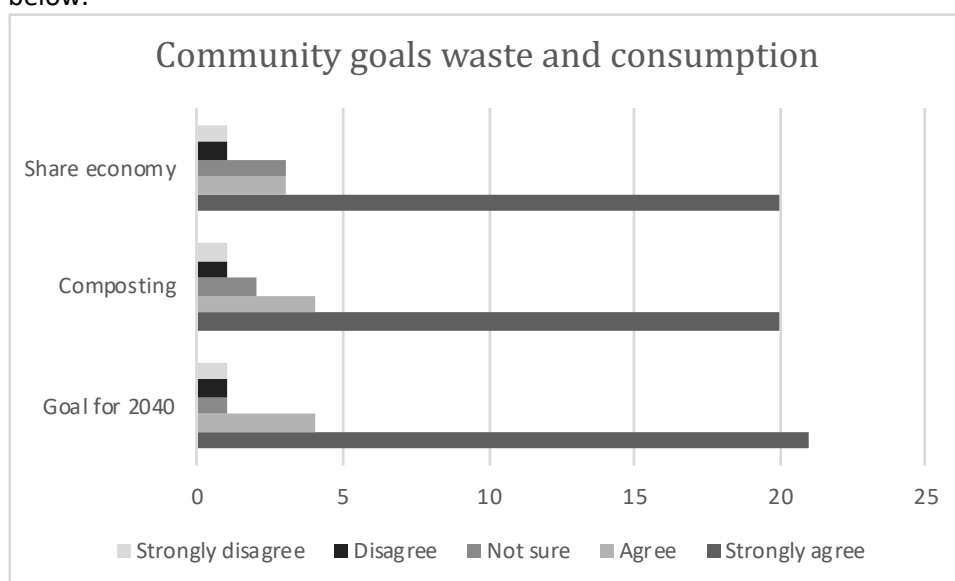
**Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)** is a grass roots climate action group with over 180 members in Moreland. They currently have 11 small teams actively working on specific areas of interest such as waste, transport and consumption. They work with other community groups to broaden their reach and are very keen to work more closely with Moreland City Council. They believe that support from Council to increase their profile and broaden their networking opportunities would be very helpful. NUCA are currently working on a number of transport projects including the Upfield Corridor. This project is advocating for better facilities for cyclists along the Upfield line and provides an opportunity to work with activists living in Hume as well as other local groups.

## WASTE AND CONSUMPTION

The online survey asked respondents to express their agreement on the draft Action Plan community goals. The specific waste and consumption goals being:

- Goal for 2040: A circular economy with zero waste.
- The proportion of Moreland households that compost or worm farm is significantly increased.
- Moreland's 'share economy groups' (food swaps, tool libraries etc.) have expanded/increased.

A total of 28 people responded to these questions and the results are provided in the graph below.



### Further comments including areas of disagreement

89 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the goal for 2040 compared with 86 per cent for the composting goal and 82 per cent for the share economy goal. Two respondents were concerned about plastic and plastic recycling with one also having concerns about over consumption and the need for education to reduce this. One respondent felt the targets were too modest and one believed this was out of the control of local government.

### Comments and submissions

#### 2040 Pop up

People attending the 'What's your Moreland 2040?' Community event were asked for their top priorities relating to Zero Carbon Moreland. Waste had the greatest number of top priority votes with 32 per cent. Ideas for reducing waste included better recycling, education on waste reduction, recycling and composting and encouraging people to use less plastic.

#### Submissions

There was general support for these goals and associated programs with a suggestion for stronger advocacy for plant-based diets and more urban food production. Specific ideas included:

- Better education about recycling (e.g. better bin stickers in multiple languages).
- An increase in options to recycle (such as public e-recycling).

Subsidies, educational workshops and signage to apartments to support setting up compost hubs in common areas and roof tops

*Participant at 'What's your Moreland 2040?' Pop-up*

## Community groups identified as interested in engaging with Council

- Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)
- Brunswick Tool Library
- Jesuit Social Services Ecological Justice Hub
- The Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc (NECCHI).

## What can Moreland do to assist you?

There were a number of comments relating to the provision of services and infrastructure to support a reduction in waste going to land fill. These included public E-recycling facilities, public composting facilities and assistance for people living in apartments to compost. Moreland can also promote and support projects already underway.

**Jesuit Social Services Ecological Justice Hub** has developed a closed loop community composting hub. They collect food waste from the Brosnan Centre, Salvation Army and the Brunswick Library along with coffee grounds sourced from Reground and turn it into compost. This is used to grow organic produce which is distributed back out into the community. They are also developing a portable bioreactor, converting organic waste into biogas for cooking, heating and hot water. This project aims to inspire business and the community about the opportunities to re-interpret what is 'waste' as a resource that can be re-used.

## GENERAL FEEDBACK ON THE ACTION PLAN

### Pop up consultation

At the 2040 pop-up consultation community members were asked for their ideas to improve the draft Action Plan. Many ideas related to elements already covered in the plan with sustainable transport being the most mentioned. Areas that are not so clearly articulated in the current Plan but were of interest to community members related to:

- Community – the need to engage, work together and educate the community.
- Urban greening – including tree planting. Two people also commented on the potential for carbon ‘drawdown’ (i.e. sequestration) through this.

Connect with others so we can learn different ways to do things and be empowered.

*Participant at ‘What’s you Moreland 2040?’ Pop-up*

### Community meetings

Groups attending the community meetings had broad agreement with the community goals and, generally, thought these were useful. Some areas where they expressed an interest in greater development were:

- Community education, opportunities to understand the issues and what could be done as well as sharing stories of actions that are already occurring.
- Council coordination of information and successes as well as programs to assist the sharing economy.

### Submissions

There were 15 written submissions from individuals. Three of the submissions from individuals did not support the plan. Of the unsupportive individuals, one did not believe climate change was an issue, one was concerned about changes to garbage collections and one was concerned about population growth/density. One additional submission questioned how this (the zero-carbon goal) could be achieved.

Of the 11 who broadly supported the Plan, four believed the targets were not ambitious enough and should be brought forward to 2025 or 2030. Other comments/suggestions included:

- More citizen involvement
- Public reporting on targets.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

### Internal

Meetings and submissions from other Council business units were supportive of the plan. There were a number of business units across Council that are actively improving their sustainability

and running programs that support the aims of the Plan. Members of Social Policy and Community Development Unit suggested a number of opportunities to align the plan with their work:

- The explicit recognition of First Nations people as a key stakeholder in the plan to include an explicit link to Council's Statement of Commitment to Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Communities.
- The Plan to have social justice as a key guiding principle and an acknowledgment of the unequal impacts of climate change.
- The need for an Engagement Strategy to ensure the voices of the diverse communities are heard.
- The opportunity to link directly with food waste reduction programs.
- Ensuring stronger emphasis in next Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Ensuring that social inclusion measures are included.
- A place-based risk assessment to understand the community impacts of climate change and inform planning.

## External

Submissions were received from four community organisation/groups who are working in this field. Three organisations expressed a wish to have greater involvement with Moreland City Council and to assist linking Council and community. Each organisation presented detailed responses relating to the draft Action Plan which are outlined below.

### **The Newlands and East Coburg Community Hubs Inc (NECCHI)**

NECCHI manages two Neighbourhood Houses in Coburg. The Houses aim to support people in the local community to participate, connect, contribute and take action. They aim to build resilience and cohesion of neighbourhoods, as well as support the well-being of individual community members.

NECCHI has a strong focus on sustainability and climate action and some of their initiatives include:

- Developing a neighbourhood climate change action plan.
- Declaring a climate emergency.
- Committing to zero net emissions for their houses.
- Running climate action programs and events and education.
- Providing a platform for community groups and leaders.
- Advocating for climate action.
- Evaluation their efforts.

NECCHI indicates a desire to partner with Council particularly regarding information sharing, the provision of grants and asset improvement (to their Neighbourhood Houses).

### **Neighbours United for Climate Action (NUCA)**

NUCA broadly support the Plan and provided a series of potential initiatives that they feel could help realise the goals. These include:

- Strong promotion and education of the new food waste kerbside collection and its expansion into businesses.
- Assistance (from Council) in promoting the circular economy through sharing apps.
- Improvements in recycling through repair cafes, reverse vending machines etc.
- Supports for businesses to reuse and recycle.
- Better planning controls to encourage sustainable buildings.
- More infrastructure for electric vehicles.
- Council promotion of groups such as NUCA.

### **Jesuit Social Services Ecological Justice Hub**

The Ecological Service Hub provides a range of services and programs that could help achieve the goals in the plan these include:

- Skills centre – providing training in sustainability employment sectors
- Community ecological demonstration hub – showcasing practical sustainability solutions such as:
  - The development and delivery of ecological workshops
  - Community education programs
  - ‘Our Waste’ community events
  - Local plastic recycling.
- Community learning and exchange centre – providing information on how to adapt to more sustainable living.

Jesuit Social Services have good links to the local community and would like to work with Council to promote the work they do and engage a broader audience.



## Appendix – Questions asked

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The online survey consisted of 10 questions linked to the Draft Action Plan. Specifically, the survey asked residents nominate their level of agreement to the goals by indication if they strongly agree, agree, not sure, disagree or strongly disagree with the statements. The specific questions are outlined below.

1. Community goals for transition
  - a. Goal for 2040: Efficient and 100% renewable powered energy
  - b. Double the amount of solar capacity installed across Moreland (from 22MW to 44MW)
  - c. Through successful advocacy, the National Renewable Target (RET) is reset so that at least 80% of Australia's electricity generation is renewable by 2030
  - d. Through successful advocacy, the National Construction Code (NCC) has increased the thermal performance of standard new dwellings from 6-star to 8-star by 2025
  - e. Residential energy use in Moreland has reduced from the current average of 4.8KWh per person per day to 4KWh per person per day
  - f. Ensure that the Moreland community continues to be recognised for its innovation and leadership in energy transition.
2. If there are any Community Goals about energy transition that you disagree with please provide further information (open question).
3. Are you involved with any local groups that you would like Council to work with to accelerate the transition to zero emissions in Moreland. Please provide details (open question).
4. Community goals for sustainable transport
  - a. Goal for 2040: Active and zero emissions transport
  - b. The proportion of Moreland residents traveling to work by car is significantly reduced
  - c. Ownership of electric vehicles in Moreland is above the Melbourne average
5. If there are any Community Goals about sustainable transport that you disagree with, please provide further information (open question)
6. Are you involved with any local groups that you would like Council to work with to improve sustainable transport in Moreland? Please provide details (open question).
7. Community goals for waste and consumption
  - a. Goal for 2040: A circular economy with zero waste
  - b. The proportion of Moreland households that compost or worm farm is significantly increased

- c. Moreland's 'share economy groups' (food swaps, tool libraries etc.) have expanded/ increased
- 8. If there are any Community Goals about waste and consumption that you disagree with, please provide further information (open question).
- 9. Are you involved with any local groups that you would like Council to work with to waste and consumption in Moreland? Please provide details (open question).
- 10. Do you have any further questions?

In addition to these questions the Draft Action Plan included a series of aligned questions that are outlined below:

### **Community mobilisation and campaigning for climate emergency response.**

- 1. Goals
  - a. Are you supportive of the draft Community 2025 Goals for 'Community Mobilisation and Campaigning'?
  - b. How might you (or your organisation) contribute to achieving these goals?
- 2. Climate campaigning
  - a. What role(s) do you think Council can play in mobilising the community to become engaged in advocacy campaigning?
  - b. How should Council work with campaigning organisations such as Climate Action Moreland, Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC), Environment Victoria, Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and others?
  - c. How could we support you or your organisation to engage your community on climate-related advocacy campaigns?
- 3. Fostering behaviour change
  - a. How could we support you (or your group/organisation) to engage local people in sustainable living?
  - b. Are you willing to be an energy, transport or waste transition 'community champion', and be involved in mobilising your community?

### **Energy transition: Towards efficient and 100% renewably powered energy**

- 1. Goals
  - a. Do you support the draft Community 2025 Goals for 'Energy Transition'?
  - b. How relevant are they to you (or your organisation)? How might you (or your organisation) contribute to achieving these goals
- 2. Key initiatives/actions
  - a. Do you support the 'Energy Transition' initiatives we are proposing?

- b. Considering the role of local councils in responding to the climate emergency, have we missed something very important?
- c. Let us know if you are a stakeholder or potential partner for any of the proposed initiatives

## **Sustainable transport: Towards Active or Zero Emissions transport**

1. Goals
  - a. How supportive are you of the draft community 2025 goals for 'sustainable transport'?
  - b. How relevant are they to you (or your organisation)?
  - c. How might you (or your organisation) contribute to achieving these goals?
2. Key initiatives/actions:
  - a. Do you support the initiatives we are proposing?
  - b. Considering the role of local councils in supporting the transition to sustainable transport, have we missed something very important?
  - c. Let us know if you are a stakeholder or potential partner for any of the proposed initiatives

## **Waste and consumption: Towards a circular economy with zero waste**

1. Goals
  - a. How supportive are you of the draft community 2025 goals for 'waste and consumption'?
  - b. How relevant are they to you (or your organisation)?
  - c. Can you suggest other goals that could be considered?
2. Key initiatives/actions.
  - a. Do you support the initiatives we are proposing?
  - b. Considering the role of local councils in supporting the transition to sustainable waste management and a 'circular economy', have we missed something very important?
  - c. Let us know if you are a stakeholder or potential partner for any of the proposed initiatives

## **Longer term opportunities**

1. Would public reporting on per capita and total emissions be useful?
2. Are there ways that this will assist you or your organisation to pursue a safe climate?