

Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) community engagement outcomes

From January to July 2026 we sought community input to understand local priorities, concerns and ideas around climate change. This engagement was conducted through an online survey and pop-up stalls at markets in Myrtleford, Mount Beauty and Bright.

We received 63 responses to our survey, plus around 15 people engaged with us across our market pop-up stalls.

What we heard

We heard that residents are already experiencing the impacts of Climate Change. Across all four of our CCAP areas (Lower Ovens, Upper Ovens, Kiewa Valley and Dinner Plain), four common themes emerged as priorities for Council to focus its community climate action efforts:

- Protect and restore waterways, biodiversity and native habitat.
- Increase tree canopy, shade and urban greening.
- Support energy efficiency, electrification and renewable energy.
- Build community resilience to bushfire, extreme weather and long-term climate impacts.

The community is not asking for more awareness campaigns. They are asking for:

- practical support, including for renters
- rebates and incentives
- trusted advice
- local examples
- easy-to-follow guidance

Key Concerns

The strongest concerns are around:

- Affordability –
 - the up-front financial cost of mitigation actions such as energy efficiency improvements for homes and businesses and purchase of Electric Vehicles (EVs), and
 - the financial cost of inaction such as insurance premium increases and tourism and business risks
- Natural environment – the risks of fire and flood, reduced snow seasons, waterway health, more trees needed in towns, as well as controlled tourism to protect natural assets
- Emergency resilience and preparedness – fire, flood, drought and storms
- Transport is a significant challenge in our region with limited public transport and EV charging infrastructure

Community energy has strong support so long as the below key concerns are addressed:

- Visual impacts
- Land-use impacts
- Bushfire risks
- Lack of information

Top priorities for Council action

Responses indicate that the community would like to see Council focussing more efforts in the following areas:

- Habitat restoration and native planting
- River and waterway protection
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Waste reduction
- Urban shade and street tree planting
- Refuse spaces for residents during extreme weather
- Advocate for public transport and more EV charging infrastructure

Variation in priorities between townships

The survey results show that across the municipality the overarching priorities for focus of the CCAPs are the protection of natural assets, energy efficiency, climate resilience and waste reduction.

However, in each CCAP area slightly differing priorities reflected distinct local circumstances and concerns.

Top priorities, in order, of each CCAP area:

- Upper Ovens (Porepunkah to Harrietville and surrounds)
 - Reducing consumption and waste generation
 - Habitat restoration and native species planting
 - Riverbank and waterway protection
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
 - Sustainable transport initiatives
- Lower Ovens (Myrtleford and surrounds)
 - Habitat restoration and native species planting
 - Riverbank and waterway protection
 - More street trees, shade and planting
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
 - Sustainable transport initiatives
- Kiewa Valley (Dederang through to Mount Beauty and surrounds)

- Reducing consumption and waste generation
 - Habitat restoration and native species planting
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
 - Riverbank and waterway protection
 - More street trees and shade
- Dinner Plain and surrounding alpine areas
 - Integration of Traditional Owner knowledge
 - Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives
 - Reducing consumption and waste generation

How we will use the feedback

The priorities and themes identified in each CCAP area will be used to structure our meetings with community stakeholder groups across the areas. This, as well as the outcomes of the stakeholder group meetings, will eventually guide the development of each of the Community Climate Action Plans.

Next steps

- Meetings with key stakeholder groups in each CCAP area, please reach out if you are a member of a community group that you think should be involved.
- Finalise and report on community engagement outcomes.
- Begin assisting working group volunteers in each CCAP area to develop the CCAPs. Everyone who left their email addresses will be contacted about these voluntary workshops. If you no longer wish to be on this list please reply to this email advising us as such.
- Engagement on the draft CCAPs
- Finalisation of the CCAPs with working group volunteers