



City of Casey

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT OUTCOME STRATEGY

2025-29



Artwork: *Dhelkunya Journey* by local Boonwurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung artist.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Casey proudly acknowledges the traditional owners, Casey's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.

COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

The City of Casey is committed to reconciliation, guided by Casey's *Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* and the Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place.

These initiatives support cultural connection, strengthen community capacity, and work towards better outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The City of Casey is home to a remarkable diversity of cultures, languages, faiths, identities, landscapes, and stories. From our first Australians to our most recent arrivals and every wave between, the City of Casey welcomes and represents all community members and their respective ambitions to live healthy, rewarding, and happy lives.

These intersecting and overlapping community stories form Casey's collective identity and contribute to its evolving, rich history.

We recognise this diversity as our strength and we aim to share, nurture, and celebrate it.

OVERVIEW OF THE OUTCOME STRATEGY

The *Sustainable Environment Outcome Strategy 2025-29* outlines our plan to foster a sustainable environment through education, climate action, waste management, and the protection and enhancement of natural resources.

Why it matters

A sustainable environment is essential for the health, resilience, and liveability of Casey, now and into the future. This strategy focuses on reducing carbon emissions, adapting to climate change, protecting natural resources, and promoting sustainable practices across the city.

By investing in climate mitigation and adaptation, enhancing biodiversity and tree canopy cover, improving waste and water management, and educating our community and local businesses, we can create a cleaner, greener, and more resilient environment. This will not only protect our natural assets but also support long-term wellbeing, reduce environmental impacts, and help our city thrive sustainably as it grows.

Our priorities

- 1. Climate mitigation** - Implement programs across Council to reduce carbon emissions and educate and support community and local business to reduce emissions.
- 2. Climate adaptation** - Investigate and implement adaptation measures that proactively support infrastructure, ecosystems, and community in preparing for climate change impacts.
- 3. Biodiversity and natural resource management** - Improve city greening with a focus on tree canopy cover, and promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and other natural resources across Council and private land.
- 4. Waste treatment** - Progress Council treatment of waste and educate community about sustainable waste practices to increase food waste diversion and reduce litter and waste contamination.
- 5. Water management** - Implement holistic water management through water sensitive urban design that advance water harvesting and reduce flood risks.

CITY OF CASEY'S ENVIRONMENT SNAPSHOT



47% WASTE DIVERSION
from landfill



92 SOLAR PV SYSTEMS
installed on council owned buildings totalling 1,821kW, which will save Council approximately 2057Tonnes CO2-e annually



100% RENEWABLE
electricity supplying all of Casey's assets sourced from multiple Victorian windfarms in Wonthaggi, Mortlake and Horsham saving over 20,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year



***25,000 NATIVE PLANTS PLANTED**
across Casey within the 24/25 financial year.
*Approximately



35 NATURE RESERVES
covering 187.4ha are managed by the City of Casey



100% OFFSETS
of City of Casey's fleet vehicle emissions through local, certified revegetation programs



200,000 STREET TREES and 114,000 TREES
in Council reserves and at Council Facilities, actively managed
*Approximately



82 THREATENED SPECIES
listed under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) call City of Casey home



186 WATER SENSITIVE URBAN DESIGN ASSETS
are managed and maintained by Council which contributes to meeting best practice water quality treatment



85% OF SPORTS AND RECREATION RESERVES
managed by the City of Casey are installed with warm season grass to reduce demand on drinking water supply for irrigation

FOUNDATIONS OF THE OUTCOME STRATEGY

Community engagement

The City of Casey is committed to ensuring the diverse voices in our community are reflected in Council decisions. *The Shape Your City 2024* engagement program is one way that we brought this commitment to life.

Across August and September 2024, Council undertook a deliberation process to review the Community Vision and inform development of the Council and Casey’s Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, including a review of the Long-Term Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan and Asset Plan.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)*, Council is required to develop these long-term strategic plans with significant input from the community.

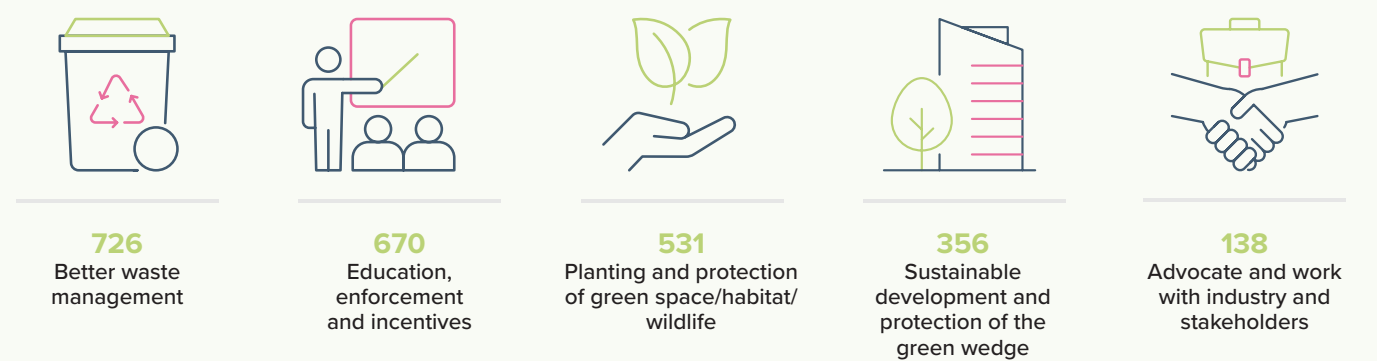
More than 4,600 members of community participated in the engagement, split across three phases -

- Phase 1 was used to understand broad community sentiment and priorities for the Plans.
- Feedback from the broader engagement supported deeper discussions in Phase 2, via deliberative engagement with the Community Panel.
- Community were then engaged to provide feedback on the draft strategic documents in Phase 3.

ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

The following represents the key themes and number of mentions recieved based on community engagement (out of 4600 responses).

CITY OF CASEY’S ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



Children were asked to draw their visions and aspirations for the future and some responses related to the Sustainable Environment outcome.

When asked what would make our community a better place, children wanted to protect plants and animals and spend time in natural places.



OUR COMMUNITY’S ASPIRATIONS

For Casey to be a more vibrant, sustainable community that fosters environment awareness, encourages active community involvement, and features abundant, beautiful green spaces.

HEALTH FOCUS AREAS

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been integrated into the Council Plan, and the six Health Focus Areas (HFA's) below set the organisations strategic direction for health.

The HFA's are embedded across all strategic outcomes and their associated strategic priorities, reflecting the complex and interconnected ways Council's services, policies and infrastructure influence health and wellbeing.

The HFA's themselves are also ideeply interrelated - addressing one area often leads to positive outcomes in another.

Through embedding the HFA's across the strategic priorities and recognising their interconnected relationship, we aim to have a greater impact, empower our community, foster resilience and move towards optimal physical and mental wellbeing for individuals, families and communities.

Health Focus Areas	Definition
1 Healthy and Active Environments	Active transport options are available and accessible, there are ample opportunities to be active in everyday life and access to fresh and affordable food that supports healthy and thriving communities. Indicators include increased active recreation, active transportation use, and increased food security.
2 Connection and Participation	People feel connected to each other and their community, with various opportunities to participate and connect through cultural and creative avenues. Indicators include increased connection to people and place, increased trust, and increased cultural and creative participation.
3 Community Empowerment	Greater access to information, resources, and supports leads to more informed and resilient individuals, households and communities, strengthened local networks and community leadership, that together can better tackle our greatest challenges, such as the health impacts of climate change. Indicators include increased service access and uptake, increased preparedness for extreme weather events, and increased volunteering rates.
4 Tobacco, Vaping, Alcohol and Gambling Harm	Harm prevention measures through urban planning, community education, and advocacy protect communities from the negative impacts of tobacco, vaping, alcohol and gambling. Indicators include reduced rates of tobacco and vaping use (particularly among young people) and reduced alcohol use (particularly among older people).
5 Community Safety and Prevention of Violence	Communities feel safe at home and in public, are free from violence, including family violence and all forms of gender-based violence, as well as all forms of discrimination, which supports full participation in community life. Indicators include increased sense of safety, reduced rates of family violence and reduced rates of discrimination.
6 Affordable Housing and Homelessness	Access to appropriate affordable housing options, as well as services to support those experiencing homelessness leads to greater stability, health, and safety outcomes. Indicators include increased rates of social and affordable housing and reduced homelessness rates.

EMBEDDING THE STRATEGY IN THE 2025-29 COUNCIL PLAN

The *2025-29 Council Plan* is a key strategic planning document. It outlines the strategic directions, outcomes, priorities and strategic indicators that will focus planning, investment and effort across the 4 year period.

The *2025-29 Council Plan* outlines five strategic outcomes that Council pursues. Sustainable Environment is strategic outcome three.

Embedding the Sustainable Environment outcome strategy within the Council Plan promotes integrated decision making – where decisions around investment and effort in one outcome strategy can be considered alongside decisions made in other outcome strategies.

Additionally, embedding the outcome strategy within the *2025-29 Council Plan* allows for the health focus areas of the Council to be aligned to priorities within the outcome.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3 Sustainable Environment

S03

Foster a sustainable environment through education, climate change action, waste management and the protection and enhancement of natural resources.

Strategic Priorities		Strategic Indicators
Priority 3.1 	Climate mitigation Implement programs across Council to reduce carbon emissions and educate and support community and local business to reduce emissions. <i>(Health Focus Area 1)</i>	Decrease carbon emissions from corporate gas and electricity use, reflecting Council's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.
Priority 3.2 	Climate adaptation Investigate and implement adaptation measures that proactively support infrastructure, ecosystems, and community in preparing for climate change impacts. <i>(Health Focus Area 3)</i>	Maintain a high percentage of actions completed to improve Council's ability to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from climate-related extreme weather events.
Priority 3.3  	Biodiversity and natural resource management Improve city greening with a focus on tree canopy cover, and promote the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and other natural resources across Council and private land. <i>(Health Focus Area 1 and 3)</i>	Increase the number of trees planted to expand tree canopy coverage across the municipality.
Priority 3.4	Waste treatment Progress Council treatment of waste and educate community about sustainable waste practices to increase food waste diversion and reduce litter and waste contamination.	- Increase the percentage of household waste diverted from landfill to support sustainable waste practices. - Maintain a high level of satisfaction with Council's waste service, ensuring treatment of waste reflects community expectations.
Priority 3.5	Water management Implement holistic water management practices through water sensitive urban design that advance water harvesting and reduce flood risks.	Reduce Council's use of drinkable water through water harvesting and leak prevention measures.

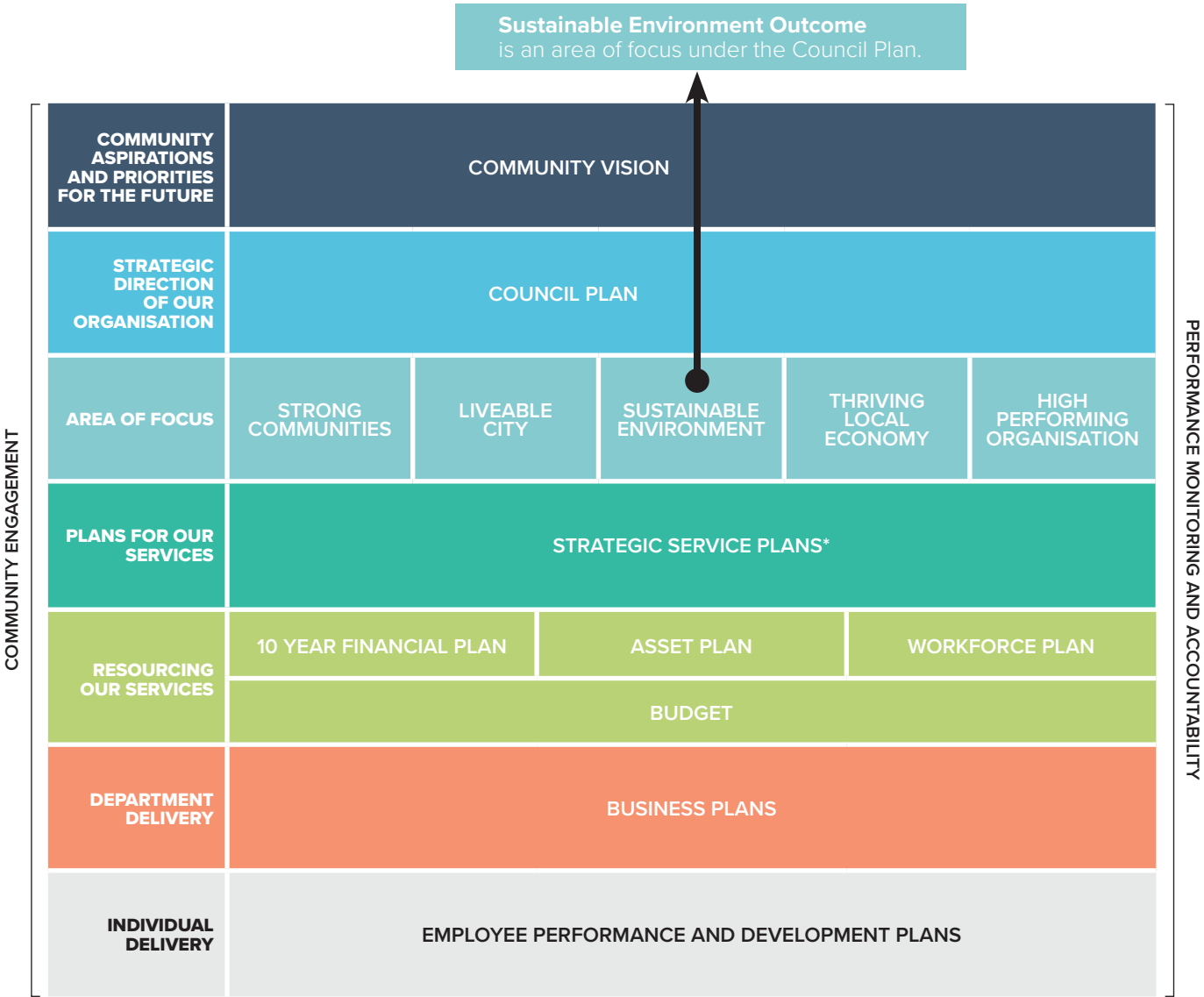
STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

The City of Casey’s Integrated Strategic Planning Framework guides Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (the Vision), medium term (Council Plan) and short term (Annual Budget, incorporating the Annual Action Plan and

Capital Works Program), and then how it will hold itself accountable (Annual Report and Audited Statements).

The following illustration demonstrates Council’s Integrated Strategic Planning Framework.



*In development

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

Progress toward the outcome and its strategic priorities is monitored and communicated through two key publications, both available via the **City of Casey website**.

The **Quarterly Community Report** provides regular updates on progress, key activities, and emerging trends, ensuring the community stays informed throughout the year.

The Annual Report, published each October, delivers a comprehensive summary of performance, highlighting achievements, challenges, and how Council is advancing long-term outcomes for the community.



Contact City of Casey

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