City of STONNINGTON

DRAFT

Resilient, Adaptable and Empowered Stonnington

Action Plan 2026-2029

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Statement of commitment to Australia's First Peoples

Council acknowledges that the people of the Kulin Nations are the Traditional Custodians of the land now known as Stonnington, and that they have strived to retain their identity and cultures through more than two hundred years of dispossession and colonisation.

We recognise and accept our responsibility to learn from, and promote the intrinsic value of, First Peoples cultural values, knowledges, heritage, and contemporary aspirations to the wider Stonnington community. We understand that doing so will enrich our shared heritage, culture, and the health of community and Country.

Council respects the special relationship the people of the Kulin Nations have to Country in Stonnington, and we recognise and commit to protecting sacred sites and significant places.

Why are we planning for a resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington?

Climate change is no longer a future risk. Stonnington is already experiencing impacts that will continue to shape our city.

Even as we work to reduce emissions, we must also adapt to the changes already underway and prepare for those still to come. Hotter average temperatures, more frequent and intense heatwaves, changing rainfall patterns and heavier downpours are placing growing pressure on our natural environment, infrastructure, services and community.

Some people and places are more exposed than others. The characteristics of our neighbourhoods, buildings and public spaces shape how heat, flooding and storms affect them, while people's housing, health, financial circumstances and social connections influence their ability to prepare, respond and recover.

Council declared a climate emergency in February 2020, recognising the scale of the challenge and the need for timely, sustained action. The term 'emergency' can feel confronting, especially as some changes are happening more gradually than others, but the evidence is clear, and the case for acting now is well established.

Our role is to ensure that our infrastructure, services and local natural environment can keep functioning under changing conditions, while supporting the community to understand local risks, prepare for them, and respond confidently when impacts occur.

Resilience depends not just on physical infrastructure or emergency response, but on people having access to practical information, resources, support networks and opportunities to act. An empowered community is one that is better equipped to prepare for change, take action, and support one another through disruption.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 establishes our long-term direction for a resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington. This Action Plan sets out the steps we will take over the next three years to better understand and plan for local climate risks, strengthen the resilience of our assets, infrastructure and services, and support a prepared and connected community.



Delivering Sustainable Stonnington 2040

This Action Plan is one of five that support delivery of our environment strategy, Sustainable Stonnington 2040.

Alongside this Action Plan, the suite includes:

- Climate Positive Stonnington 2026-2029
- Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Stonnington 2026-2029
- Biodiverse, Green and Connected Stonnington 2026-2029
- Circular and Resource-Conscious Stonnington 2026-2029

These five action plans are designed to work together – actions delivered through one will often support the outcomes in others.

Adaptation and resilience: What's the difference?

Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for climate impacts and reduce the harm they may cause. This can include designing buildings and public spaces for hotter conditions, using trees and vegetation to provide shade and cooling, improving how water is retained and managed in the landscape, or strengthening community networks so people can access support during and after extreme events.

Climate resilience is the ability of people, infrastructure, businesses and natural environments to cope with changing conditions, continue functioning during disruption and recover afterwards. Adaptation helps build resilience by reducing exposure, strengthening preparedness and improving our capacity to respond and learn.

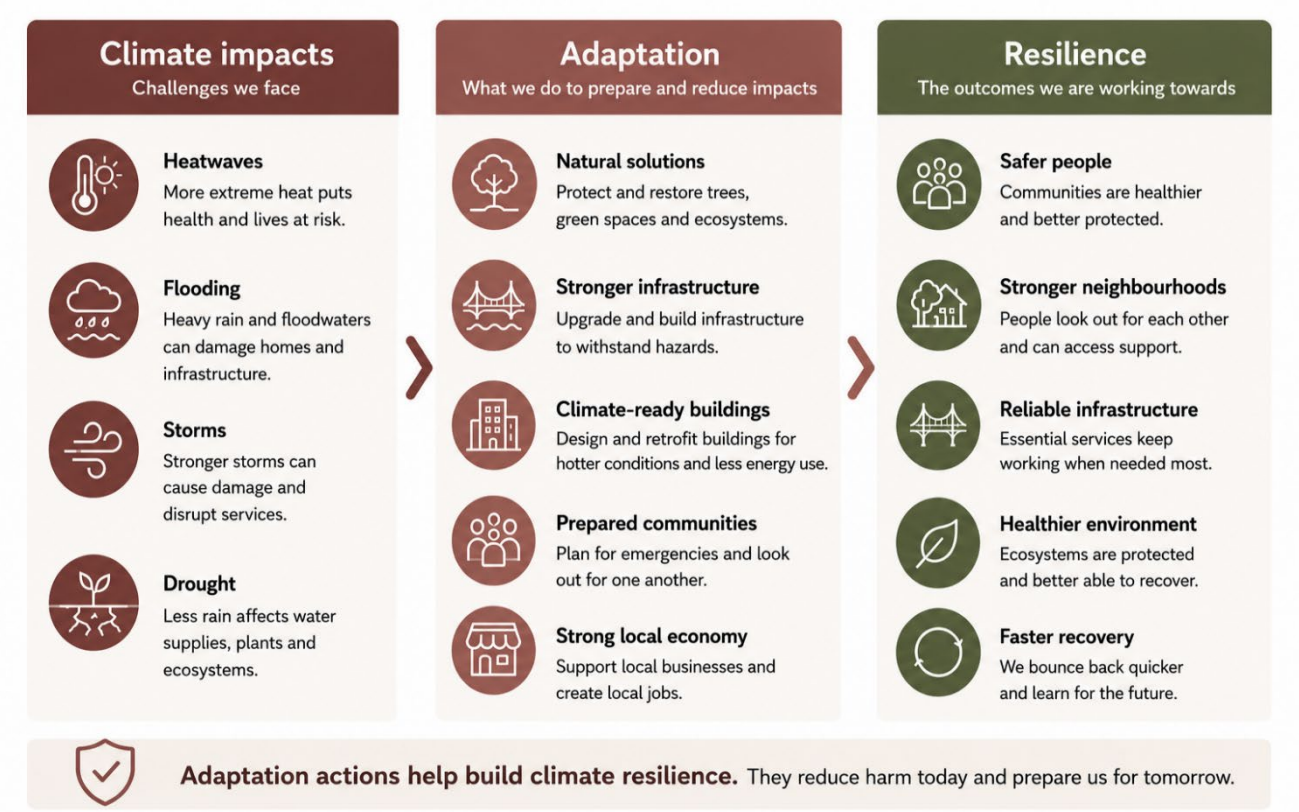


Figure 1. *The difference between adaptation and resilience.*



Who contributes to climate resilience in Stonnington?

Building climate resilience is a shared responsibility. Climate impacts affect homes, businesses, infrastructure, services, natural environments and communities, and no single organisation can prepare for or respond to them alone. Different groups influence Stonnington's resilience in different ways.

Australian Government

Leads and coordinates national efforts, assesses national climate risks, sets national legislation, policy and strategic direction, and funds projects and industry innovation.

Victorian Government

Sets statewide legislation, policies and adaptation plans, coordinates emergency management and provides guidance and funding for local projects.

Local government

Builds climate resilience into planning, assets, services and decision-making, supports community preparedness, coordinates with partners and advocates for broader change. Under Victorian legislation, local governments must consider climate change in their planning, risk management and decision-making.

Developers

Play a key role in shaping the long-term resilience of the built environment. Design and construction decisions influence how well buildings and precincts respond to extreme heat, flooding and other climate risks over their lifetime, and determine whether a development either contributes positively to local resilience or increases exposure to climate risks.

Local businesses

Provide local jobs, goods and services. Businesses that prepare for extreme weather, outages and supply-chain disruption are better able to withstand or recover from them while supporting the community to do the same.

Community

Community organisations, groups, households and individuals are central to local preparedness and recovery. Practical action at home, trusted local information and strong neighbourhood connections all help people prepare, respond and support one another.



Where we are now

Current climate impacts

Climate change is no longer a future challenge. As of June 2026, average global warming is estimated at approximately 1.3°C above pre-industrial levels. Australia has already warmed by an average of 1.51°C since 1910, and some parts of the world are already experiencing warming beyond 1.5°C, demonstrating that climate change is not a future problem but a current reality.

Recent years have brought record-breaking heat across several continents, severe floods and storms, prolonged droughts and destructive bushfires. These events have caused loss of life and displacement of communities, damaged homes and infrastructure, disrupted energy and food systems and placed significant pressure on health and emergency services.

Some climate impacts are sudden and disruptive. Others can be less visible day to day but accumulate over time.



Sudden and disruptive events

- Heatwaves
- Bushfires
- Flash flooding
- Storms



Gradual and cumulative changes

- Rising average temperatures
- Changing seasonal and rainfall patterns
- Hotter and drier conditions
- Sea level rise and ocean acidification

Both can affect people directly and disrupt critical systems and infrastructure, leading to:



Health and wellbeing

- Heat related illness
- Poorer air and water quality
- Anxiety, stress, trauma and reduced overall wellbeing
- Greater risk of infectious diseases
- Reduced opportunity for outdoor recreation, physical activity, and nature engagement



Homes and buildings

- Damage from floods, storms, and other extreme events
- Higher energy and water bills
- Increased cost of maintenance and repairs
- Rising insurance premiums
- Need to retrofit or upgrade to adapt



Community resilience

- Increased pressure on emergency services, health providers, and community organisations
- Increased risk for vulnerable community members, including older people, young children, people with health conditions, low-income households and socially isolated people



Nature

- Increased pressure on parks, waterways, trees and the broader natural environment
- Biodiversity loss as some plants and animals struggle to adapt
- Reduced shade, cooling, water absorption and other benefits provided by nature



Local economy

- Increased cost of living
- Increased operational costs for businesses
- Disrupted supply chains
- Impacts on tourism, agriculture and other climate-sensitive industries
- Reduced productivity and economic activity



Infrastructure and services

- Damage and disruption to transport, utilities and community facilities
- Greater demand on electricity and water systems
- Higher maintenance costs and need to retrofit or upgrade infrastructure

Differences in geography, development, natural environments and community circumstances shape the types and severity of impacts experienced by different cities around the world. In Stonnington, the most significant direct impacts are expected to include extreme heat, intense rainfall and storms. However, events elsewhere can also disrupt energy, food and other essential supply systems, increase costs and create flow-on effects for local services, businesses and households.

Where exposure is greatest

Climate impacts will be felt across Stonnington, but not in the same way or to the same extent everywhere. Conditions vary across the city, with some neighbourhoods benefiting from established tree canopy, greener streets and more parks and gardens, while others have denser development, higher concentrations of hard surfaces and more limited space for planting or water absorption. These differences influence exposure to heat, flooding and storms, as well as the options available to reduce these impacts over time.

Trees, parks and gardens are among Stonnington's most important resilience assets. They provide shade and cooling, help absorb rainfall, support biodiversity and contribute to the character and liveability of our neighbourhoods. However, these natural assets are themselves vulnerable to hotter, drier conditions and more severe storms.

Heat and canopy mapping shows how conditions vary across Stonnington. Areas with less canopy and greater concentrations of hard surfaces generally retain more heat, while trees and vegetation provide shade and local cooling. Maintaining existing canopy and increasing shade in hotter areas will become increasingly important as the climate changes.

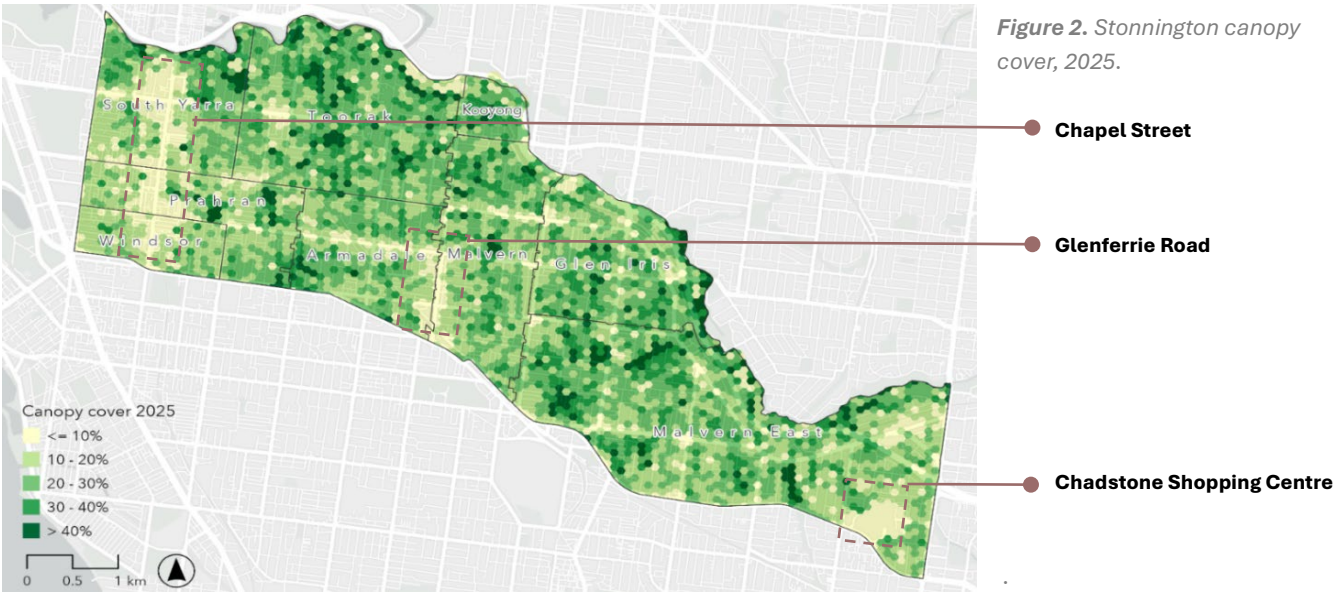


Figure 2. Stonnington canopy cover, 2025.

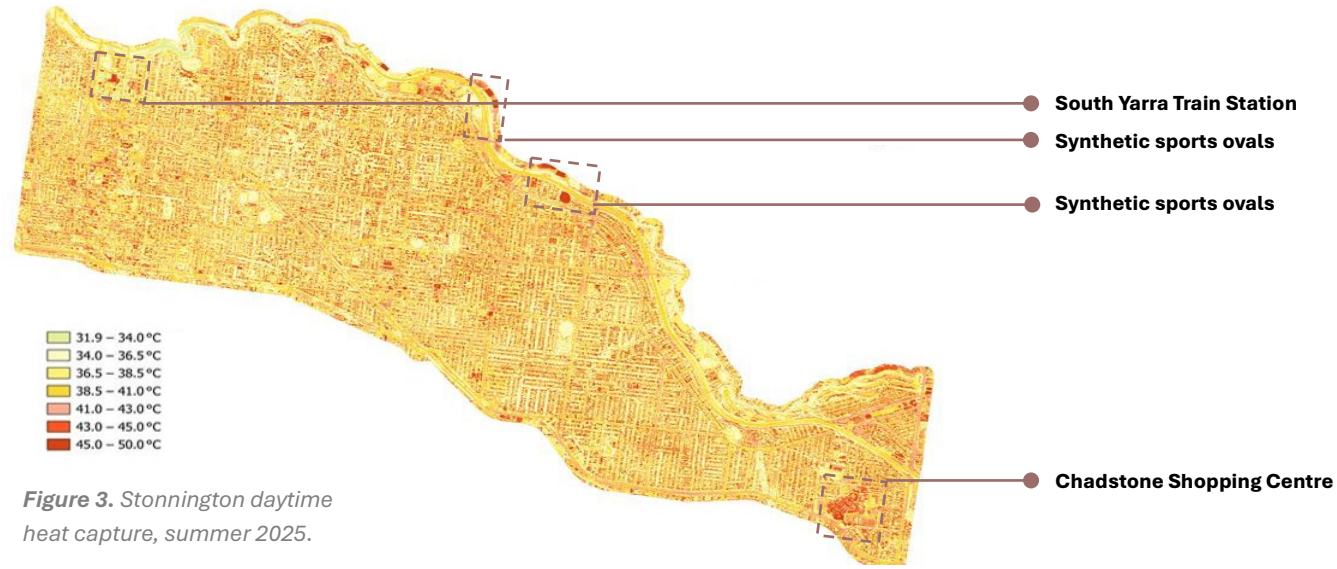


Figure 3. Stonnington daytime heat capture, summer 2025.

Roads, roofs and paving absorb and retain heat, contributing to the **urban heat island effect**, where neighbourhoods become hotter during the day and slower to cool overnight.

Material type and colour influence how much heat is absorbed, reflected and released by urban surfaces.

- Dark materials such as asphalt, bluestone, synthetic turf and dark roof tiles absorb and retain more heat
- Lighter coloured, reflective surfaces like pale concrete, gravel, and lighter coloured or some metal roofs remain cooler

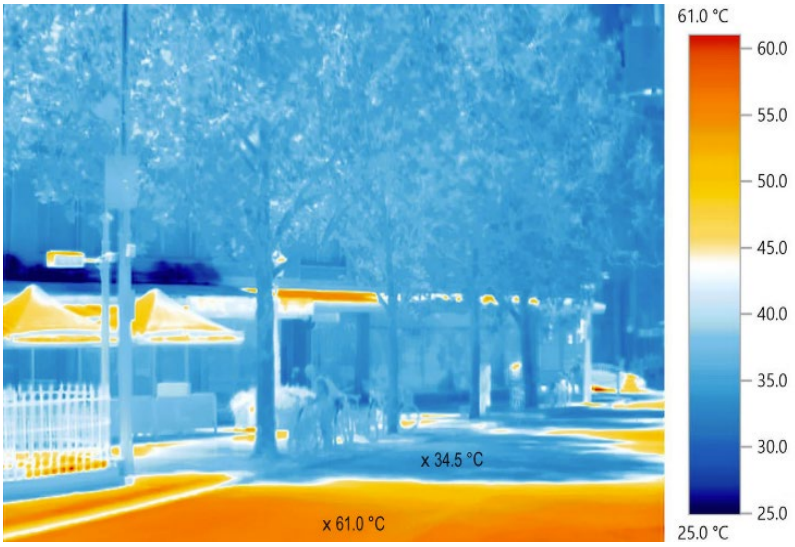


Figure 4. *How shade and surface materials influence street temperatures. Thermal image - Elizabeth Street (Melbourne CBD).*

Materials like concrete, brick and stone can also retain heat during the day and then release it slowly after sunset, contributing to higher overnight temperatures.

Selecting cooler, more reflective and permeable materials can help reduce surface temperatures and improve thermal comfort. Protecting and increasing tree canopy, providing more shade and vegetation, and using more permeable surface materials can also help to reduce local heat exposure.

Hard surfaces and dense development also increase exposure to flash flooding. When water cannot soak into the ground, heavy rainfall places greater pressure on drainage systems and can cause water to pool or flow through streets, properties and public spaces. This can affect homes and businesses, as well as Council-managed assets such as roads, footpaths, parks, trees, community facilities and other infrastructure. Lack of soil permeability also impacts the health and viability of our trees, the stability of groundwater flows that maintain our rivers and creeks, and the structural health of soils which can lead to building damage where foundations are impacted by shrinking and/or expanding soils.

Our existing heat, flood and canopy mapping helps identify where these conditions occur across the municipality. More detailed assessment is also needed in some locations to understand how climate hazards interact with buildings, public spaces, infrastructure, local activity and the people who use them. Flood risk and updated flood mapping are considered in more detail through the **Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Stonnington Action Plan**.

LOCAL EVIDENCE SNAPSHOT

Chapel Street climate vulnerability assessment



Chapel Street is one of Stonnington's busiest and most densely developed precincts, making it particularly exposed to climate impacts.

In 2023-24, Council and CSIRO completed a climate vulnerability assessment (CVA) to inform the Chapel Street Masterplan. The assessment found that both public and private assets face increasing exposure to heat and flooding, particularly in areas with extensive hard surfaces and limited shade. It also identified that climate impacts are likely to affect a growing proportion of the community over time.

Opportunities to improve resilience include increasing shade, expanding vegetation, using permeable surfaces and improving how rainfall is absorbed and managed.

While focused on Chapel Street, the findings reflect challenges faced across Stonnington. Completing a municipality-wide CVA is therefore a key initiative of this Action Plan.

Who is most at risk?

A person's risk from climate impacts can be influenced by where they live, the type and condition of their home, their health and mobility, their financial circumstances, and the social connections and support they can draw on. These factors can overlap, creating greater risk for some members of the community during extreme heat, flooding, storms or disruptions to essential services.

People living in homes that are hard to keep cool experience greater discomfort and health risks during hot weather. People experiencing homelessness or insecure housing can face particularly high exposure, with limited access to safe, cool places, reliable information and other resources needed to prepare and recover from extreme weather.

STONNINGTON'S HOUSEHOLDS

43%
Renters

75%
Live in medium and high-density housing

37%
Live alone

13%
Identify as living with a disability or chronic health condition

22%
Report experiencing loneliness

51%
Report being able to get help from a neighbour when needed

Improvements such as insulation, shading, ventilation and efficient cooling can make homes safer and more comfortable. However, not everyone can make or afford these changes:

- Renters generally rely on landlords to approve or deliver improvements
- People living in apartments may face shared decision-making, building constraints or costs that are difficult to navigate

Financial circumstances also affect people's ability to prepare or absorb the costs of disruption. Higher energy use during hot weather, home repairs and replacing belongings after storms or flooding can place significant financial stress on households.

Climate impacts can present more immediate health and safety risks for older people, young children, people with disability or health conditions, people with limited mobility, and those who rely on medical equipment, home-based care or essential utilities.

People are also more resilient when they are connected to others.

During extreme weather, a neighbour who checks in, a local organisation that shares reliable information, or a trusted place to seek help can make a real difference. People who are socially isolated, less connected to local networks or face barriers accessing information may be more exposed when conditions become challenging.

WHAT WE MEAN BY

Priority communities

The people who may need more targeted support will vary depending on the climate impact and local circumstances. They may include:

- Families with young children
- Older people, particularly those living alone
- People with disability, reduced mobility or health conditions that increase their sensitivity to heat or disruption
- People experiencing homelessness or insecure housing
- Households experiencing financial hardship or energy stress
- Renters and people living in apartments or homes that are difficult to modify
- People who are socially isolated
- People facing barriers to accessing information, services or emergency support

A critical turning point

Australia's National Climate Risk Assessment highlights the growing risks facing communities and the importance of acting early to reduce future impacts and costs.

The question is no longer whether climate impacts will occur, but how prepared we are for them.

Decisions made today about how we plan neighbourhoods, manage infrastructure, care for the natural environment and support people at greater risk will shape Stonnington's ability to adapt for decades to come. Communities that invest early in resilience and adaptation are better placed to withstand disruption, recover more quickly and continue to thrive under changing conditions.

This makes the current decade a critical turning point, and underpins our work to create a resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington.



What we heard from you

Through the Sustainable Stonnington 2040 engagement process, community members and local stakeholders shared their experiences of climate impacts, the steps they are already taking, the barriers they face and the kinds of support they would like Council to provide.

While we heard many consistent messages, priorities varied between groups.

Older residents and families placed greater emphasis on preparedness, resilience, social connection and accessible information, while younger community members were more likely to highlight the advocacy, community leadership and engaging, targeted communication.

Renters and residents living in apartments were more likely to identify limits on their ability to act independently and expressed a greater need for guidance, targeted support, equitable programs. Across all groups, practical and targeted education was seen as one of the most useful ways Council could support action.

Common priorities and action ideas



Improve comfort at home during hot weather



Plan and prepare for extreme weather and emergencies



Stay safe and well during heatwaves



Participate in climate advocacy



Support friends, family and community members at greater risk



Build stronger neighbourhood and community connections



Stay informed about climate and environmental issues



Build community leadership and strengthen youth voices



Volunteer with local groups or organisations

Barriers	How Council can help
Unsure where to start or where to find information	▶ Provide clear, practical and accessible information, including step-by-step advice and simple actions, through channels people are already using. ▶ Tailor information for different audiences, including renters, apartment residents and priority communities.
Affordability	▶ Provide free or low-cost programs, resources and incentives. ▶ Promote existing financial support pathways. ▶ Advocate for increased assistance from other levels of government.
Lack of time, inconvenience and competing priorities	▶ Provide simple, practical education programs and resources that are easy to fit into everyday life. ▶ Offer flexible program and event times and resources that can be accessed online at any time.
Limited awareness of opportunities	▶ Promote local opportunities to volunteer, participate in community initiatives, contribute to advocacy, and build community connections.
Lack of confidence that actions will make a difference	▶ Share local success stories and practical examples of community action. ▶ Monitor and report on outcomes of Council action and community efforts.

Where we're headed

A resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington is one where our community, places, services and natural environment are better prepared for changing conditions, can withstand and recover during disruption, and we learn and improve along the way.

Sustainable Stonnington 2040 sets our long-term direction for how we will care for our environment and support a sustainable, resilient Stonnington.

Over the next three years, we will improve our understanding of local climate risks and how they affect different people and places, strengthen the resilience of our infrastructure and services, and support communities to prepare, connect and take action.

We will also advocate for the policies, investment and collaboration needed to strengthen resilience across Stonnington and beyond.

Some initiatives in this Action Plan are expected to provide direct benefits within its three-year timeframe. Others will strengthen the evidence, planning, processes and partnerships needed to guide future investment and ensure our response becomes more targeted and effective over time. Both are important.

Part of a bigger picture

A resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington relies on work being delivered through the wider Sustainable Stonnington 2040 suite.

- Our **Climate Positive Action Plan** tackles the emissions and energy use at the root of a changing climate.
- Our **Water Sensitive and Flood Ready Action Plan** sets out how we'll manage stormwater and reduce flood risk, keeping streets and homes safer in heavy rain.
- Our **Biodiverse, Green and Connected Action Plan** strengthens the canopy, habitat and green spaces that cool the city and provide relief during extreme heat.
- Our **Circular and Resource-Conscious Action Plan** helps keeps resources in use longer and strengthens resilience to rising costs and supply disruptions.

These plans reinforce one another and deliver shared benefits for our environment and community.

Our approach

Our approach is guided by the Australian Government's climate change **adaptation planning cycle**.

It treats adaptation as an ongoing process of understanding risk, prioritising and planning, adapting and responding, and monitoring change.

The three focus areas in this Action Plan apply this thinking by strengthening our evidence and planning, adapting Council assets and services, and supporting community action.

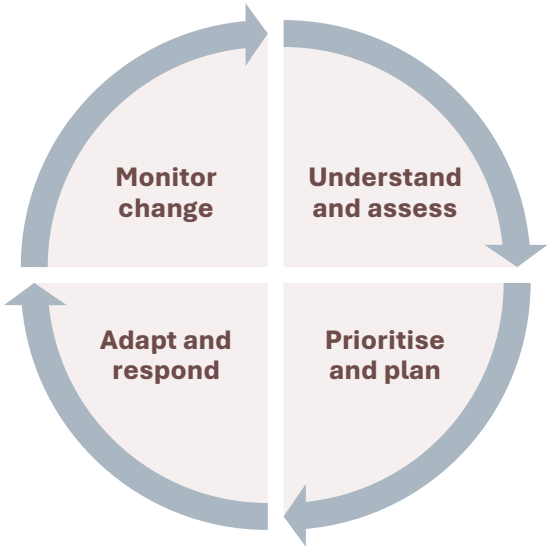


Figure 5. *Adaptation planning cycle (Source: National Adaptation Plan, 2025)*

Our ongoing activities

Climate resilience is already embedded across a range of Council services, plans, partnerships and programs. The activities below reflect work we already deliver as part of our core business. They provide an important foundation for the new actions in this Action Plan and will continue alongside them.



Understanding local climate risks

We use available climate data and research from state and federal government and major universities to undertake mapping and technical assessments that help us to understand how heat, flooding and other climate impacts may affect Stonnington's places, assets, environment, services and community.

We will work with organisations such as the CSIRO and Melbourne Water to improve heat, flood and canopy mapping and understanding of climate vulnerability to inform current planning and provide a foundation for further assessment through this Action Plan.



Embedding resilience in Council assets, infrastructure and services

We consider climate risk and resilience in the way we plan, maintain and invest in Council assets, infrastructure and services.

This includes recognising how changing conditions may affect the performance, safety, maintenance needs and long-term value of the buildings, public spaces, natural environment and facilities our community relies on, and ensuring we align with relevant strategic objectives, targets, and policies when delivering projects.



Encouraging climate-ready development

We consider climate resilience when making decisions about the use and development of land. This includes promoting building and precinct design that responds to heat, flooding and changing climate conditions.

Through participation in collaborations such as Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and the Eastern Alliance for greenhouse Action (EAGA), we share knowledge and resources and collectively advocate for stronger planning and building requirements where controls sit with the Victorian Government.



Working with partners to extend our influence

We work regularly with regional partners, Traditional Custodians, other councils and specialist organisations on shared climate resilience challenges.

By sharing knowledge, combining resources, coordinating responses and advocating for change, we contribute to outcomes that Council cannot deliver alone and help influence broader policy, investment and resourcing.



Supporting our community

We support residents, households and community organisations to learn about environmental and climate issues and take practical action.

Existing education, engagement and community programs provide a foundation for more targeted work through this Action Plan to build climate preparedness, strengthen local connections and support members of our community with fewer options to adapt.



Preparing for and responding to extreme events and disruption

We maintain emergency management and planning arrangements to support community safety and continuity of essential Council services during heatwaves, floods, storms, and other climate influenced extreme weather events.

This includes working with relevant agencies and partners to coordinate and support preparedness and response activities as conditions, risks and community needs change.

What you can do

Alongside the work of governments and organisations, there are practical actions people can take in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

We recognise that while not every action is possible for every person, household or group, everyone can play a part in ways that work for their circumstances.



In your home

Preparing your home and household can help you stay safer and more comfortable during extreme weather and disruption. You can:

- Use internal and external shading, cross-ventilation, draught proofing and efficient cooling to help keep your home comfortable during hot weather
- Plant and care for trees or grow your own food, where you have suitable space
- Consider how extreme weather or power outages would affect your household and plan for what you, your family or pets may need (water, medication, food) during these times – including if you need to leave quickly or remain at home.
- Download the VicEmergency app and know where to find other trusted emergency information
- Learn how to recognise when someone may need help during extreme heat and where to seek advice or assistance
- Check your home meets the current minimum rental standards guidelines from Consumer Affairs Victoria



In your neighbourhood

People who know and support one another are often better placed to share information, identify when help is needed and recover from disruption. You can:

- Get to know your neighbours and agree on simple ways to check in with or help one another during heat, power outages or other disruptions
- Share trusted information, useful skills or resources with neighbours, such as how you created your heatwave safety plan what you've done to improve the resilience of your home
- Take part in neighbourhood events or local activities that build connection and resilience
- Discover local community spaces you can visit to stay safe and well during extreme weather if it is not possible to stay at home



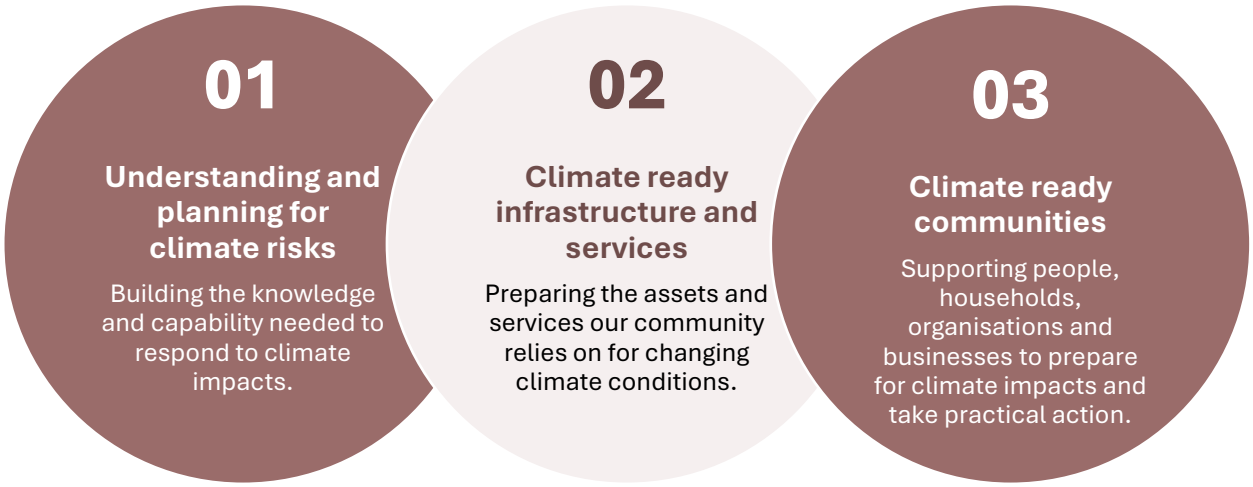
In your community

Community organisations, local groups and collective action help build resilience beyond individual households and streets. They create opportunities to learn, participate, support others and influence decisions that shape Stonnington's future. You can:

- Join or support a local environmental, climate action or community organisation, or participate in local greening, resource sharing or preparedness initiatives
- Share your experience of local climate risks and possible solutions through Council engagement opportunities
- Help share information and organise activities in ways that are accessible to people with different needs
- Advocate for resilient homes, infrastructure, public spaces and services that support the whole community

Our focus for the next three years

Building a resilient, adaptable and empowered Stonnington requires action across our organisation and community. This Action Plan is organised around three connected focus areas that together strengthen Stonnington's ability to prepare for, respond to and adapt to climate impacts. The three work hand in hand; Understanding our risks helps us prepare and adapt and support the community to do the same.



Reading the action tables

Each focus area includes an action table setting out what we will deliver over the next three years. For each action:

TIMING shows when an action is expected to begin, progress or be completed during the Action Plan. Key:

- ● Active years
- ○ Years where the action is not yet underway or has been completed

Note: Years refers to financial years, with 'Year 1' of this plan being financial year 2026-27.

COST provides a high-level indication of the likely scale of investment required. Key:

- Deliverable within existing staff resources
- **$** Low - less than $50,000 per year
- **$$** Medium - approximately $50,000 to $250,000 per year
- **$$$** High - greater than $250,000 per year, generally associated with capital works or multi-site delivery programs

Note: Cost estimates are indicative and intended to guide planning. Funding decisions are considered through Council's annual budget process and actual costs may vary depending on scope, design, delivery timing and opportunities to secure external funding.

CO-BENEFITS identify where an action is expected to also contribute to another priority of Sustainable Stonnington 2040. Actions have been assigned to the Action Plan where they are most directly delivered; however, environmental outcomes are interconnected, and many actions will support more than one priority at the same time. Key:

Climate Positive | Water Sensitive & Flood Ready | Biodiverse, Green & Connected

Circular & Resource Conscious

Focus Area 01: Understanding and planning for climate risks

Building the knowledge and capability needed to respond to climate impacts.

Climate resilience starts with understanding risk. We already have important foundations in place, including heat, flood and canopy mapping and the Chapel Street climate vulnerability assessment. The next step is to build a more complete and consistent picture of how climate hazards may affect places, assets, services and communities across Stonnington.

Over the next three years, we will expand our local evidence base, strengthen how climate impacts are monitored and recorded, and build the capability needed to use this information in planning and decision-making. This includes assessing risks to key Council services and buildings, understanding emerging governance and financial considerations, and supporting staff to plan for changing conditions.

This work will help us direct future effort and investment to where it is most needed and make our response more targeted and effective over time.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
1.1	**Undertake a municipality-wide climate vulnerability assessment** Complete a municipality-wide climate vulnerability assessment using updated climate data and projections for heat, flooding, storms and drier conditions. The assessment will provide a strategic picture of how climate impacts may affect Stonnington's people, places, natural environment, assets and services. Use the findings to identify priority responses and inform future asset and service planning, investment and relevant planning controls.	●●●	$$$	
1.2	**Undertake climate risk assessments for core Council services** Conduct targeted climate risk assessments for core Council services to identify operational vulnerabilities, service continuity risks and priorities for adaptation.	●●●	$$$	
1.3	**Assess the climate resilience of Council-owned buildings** Integrate assessment of extreme heat, flooding and storms and other relevant climate risks into Council's next Building Asset Condition Audit. Findings will identify potential building vulnerabilities and inform future renewal, upgrade and maintenance priorities.	●○○		
1.4	**Develop and trial data collection and reporting frameworks to track climate impacts** Develop frameworks to record the impacts of extreme weather on Council assets and service continuity. Undertake 24-month data collection trials across both areas to test and refine the approach.	○●●	$	
1.5	**Build organisational capacity to understand and plan for local climate risks** Deliver targeted training and climate scenario planning exercises to help Council staff understand local climate risks and apply this knowledge in planning, service delivery, asset management and decision-making.	●●●		
1.6	**Review emerging climate-related risks, obligations and governance considerations** Review emerging legal, regulatory, insurance and governance implications of climate change for local government. Use the findings to identify opportunities to strengthen Council's planning, risk management and decision-making processes.	○●○	$$	

Focus Area 02: Climate-ready infrastructure and services

Preparing the assets and services our community relies on for changing climate conditions.

Council manages buildings, drainage systems, public spaces, and a broad range of services that support everyday life in Stonnington. Climate impacts can place these under pressure in different ways – damaging assets, disrupting services, affecting public safety, or increasing the cost and complexity of maintaining essential functions.

We need to plan ahead for these impacts and strengthen the way our assets, services and operations respond. Over the next three years, we will focus on improving emergency readiness and business continuity, strengthening resilience requirements in procurement and service delivery, protecting important systems and data, and examining how Council can better fund and respond to future climate-related disruption.

This work will translate our growing understanding of climate risks into practical improvements in how Council prepares, operates and invests.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
2.1	**Investigate and pilot portable Emergency Relief Centre kits** Working with regional partners, investigate and pilot portable kits that can be deployed at Emergency Relief Centres during extreme weather events and other disruptions. Kits may include equipment and resources to support safety, comfort, communications and assistance for community members seeking relief.	●●●	$	
2.2	**Strengthen climate resilience planning for open spaces** Undertake long-term climate resilience assessments for Council-managed parks, open spaces and biodiversity areas. Develop landscape management plans to identify changes to maintenance practices, planting palettes and other interventions that will strengthen resilience to hotter, drier and more variable conditions. *This action will be coordinated with the related tree selection and succession planning action in the Biodiverse, Green and Connected Action Plan, supporting an integrated approach to climate resilient open spaces, canopy and habitat.*	●●●		
2.3	**Review and update the Municipal Emergency Management Plan – Heatwave Subplan** Work with relevant stakeholders to review and update Council's Heatwave Subplan to ensure arrangements for preparing for and responding to extreme heat remain current, coordinated and fit for purpose. The review will consider updated climate information, response triggers, roles and responsibilities, and support for people at greater risk during heatwaves.	●○○	$	
2.4	**Review and update the Municipal Emergency Management Plan – Flood Subplan** Informed by updated flood mapping, work with VICSES and other relevant stakeholders to review and update Council's Flood Subplan, so Council and the community are well prepared to respond when flooding occurs.	○●○	$	

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
2.5	**Strengthen business continuity planning for climate-related disruption** Review and update Council's business continuity documentation to improve preparedness for extreme heat, storms and flooding, as well as associated disruptions such as power outages, fuel constraints and supply chain impacts. This work will support continuity of essential Council services and operations during disruption.	●●○	👤	⚡ 💧 🌿
2.6	**Embed climate resilience in major procurement** Update procurement documentation and evaluation guidance so relevant major projects and service contracts consider climate risk and resilience. This will help ensure suppliers identify and manage risks that could affect Council assets and services.	○●○	👤	⚡ 💧 ♻
2.7	**Improve consideration of climate change in Council's asset management and financial planning** In collaboration with the other M9 councils as part of the Resilient Asset Management and Investment (RAMI) project, implement asset management and financial planning tools, processes and capability building initiatives that improve consideration of climate risk, resilience and adaptation outcomes.	●●●	👤	⚡ 💧

Focus Area 03: Climate-ready community

Supporting people, households, organisations and businesses to prepare for climate impacts and take practical action.

People experience climate impacts in their homes, workplaces and neighbourhoods, and some have fewer options to prepare for extreme heat, storms, flooding or disruption.

Over the next three years, we will provide practical information, targeted programs and opportunities for community members and local organisations to build knowledge and capability. This includes supporting households most exposed to heat, helping people stay safe during extreme weather, working with businesses and community groups, and partnering with Traditional Custodians to understand climate impacts on Country.

Community resilience is strengthened when people have access to the information, resources, relationships and opportunities they need to prepare and act.

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.1	**Deliver community heat safety education and support** Develop and deliver a community heat safety campaign and annual education sessions tailored to priority communities, working with local community organisations and health service providers. As part of the program, trial Summer Safety Kits for participants at greater risk during extreme heat.	●●●	$	
3.2	**Deliver climate-resilient gardening education** Develop and deliver a new climate resilient gardening module through the My Smart Garden program, helping residents choose suitable plants, use water efficiently and design gardens that are better able to cope with hotter, drier and more variable conditions.	●●●	$	
3.3	**Trial home heat resilience support for priority households** Partner with regional networks to design and deliver a trial program that improves thermal comfort and heat resilience in priority households. The program will provide targeted information and subsidised home improvements, such as draught proofing, insulation and other appropriate upgrades, to help make homes safer and more comfortable during extreme heat. *This action will be coordinated with the related household energy efficiency action in the Climate Positive Action Plan, providing an integrated approach to household comfort, resilience, energy use and emissions reduction.*	●●●	$$	
3.4	**Build community capability through climate scenario planning** Work with priority communities and local climate and environmental organisations to deliver interactive activities that help people understand how climate impacts may affect their homes, organisations and neighbourhoods, identify practical responses, and strengthen their confidence and connections to plan and act together.	●●●	$	

Action		Timing	Cost	Co-benefits
3.5	**Partner with Traditional Custodians to understand climate impacts on Country** Work in partnership with Traditional Custodians to understand and identify appropriate opportunities to respond to climate impacts on Country and local seasonal cycles. This work will be guided by self-determined participation and respect for First Peoples knowledge, priorities and cultural authority.	○●●	$	
3.6	**Support local businesses to strengthen climate resilience** Develop or adapt practical climate risk assessment and business continuity resources for small and medium local businesses. Support these with capacity building events to help businesses understand, prepare for and manage climate-related disruption. *This action will be coordinated with related business support actions across the companion action plans, providing an integrated approach to supporting local business sustainability.*	○●●	$	
3.7	**Advocate for stronger resilience requirements in building and planning controls** Advocate to the Victorian and Australian governments for stronger building and planning requirements that improve climate resilience, comfort, and thermal performance of private developments and new construction. *This action will be coordinated with related advocacy actions across the companion Action Plans, providing an integrated approach to a sustainable built environment in Stonnington.*	●●●		
3.8	**Support community participation and climate advocacy** Provide accessible information, resources and opportunities that help community members and local groups, including young people, build awareness of climate impacts, participate in public consultations and other engagement opportunities, and advocate to other levels of government on climate resilience priorities aligned with Council's strategic direction.	●●●		

How we'll measure progress

We will track progress at two levels, monitoring both the delivery of actions and the longer-term outcomes they are intended to influence.

Strategic indicators

This Action Plan contributes to the strategic resilience outcomes established in Sustainable Stonnington 2040. These strategic indicators will help us understand whether our organisation, assets, services and community are becoming better prepared for climate impacts over time.

Some of these outcomes are influenced by many factors, including some outside Council's direct control. Change may also take time, with variable progress year to year, so we will consider the indicators together and monitor longer-term trends.

Strategic indicator	Baseline	2040 Target	Data source
Understanding of climate risk of priority Council services Percentage of identified priority services with a current climate risk assessment and agreed adaptation actions	0 New process commencing 2026/27	100%	Council data
Service recovery following climate-related disruption Percentage of actual disruptions in which core services are restored within their agreed recovery timeframes	To be established 2027/28	To be established	Council data
Community confidence in their local area's ability to adapt to climate change Percentage of respondents who report being very or somewhat confident that their local area will be able to adapt to the effects of climate change in their lifetime	48% (2026)	Increase	Community Views Survey (every two years)
Residents' confidence in their ability to adapt to climate change Percentage of respondents who report being very or somewhat confident they will personally be able to adapt to the effects of climate change in their lifetime	66% (2026)	Increase	Community Views Survey (every two years)

Delivery indicators

The following delivery indicators align with the broader outcomes set in Sustainable Stonnington 2040 but translate them into specific targets for 2026-2029 that are relevant to the actions outlined in this Action Plan.

Delivery indicator	Target (2029)
Actions delivered on schedule	≥85%
Note: additional delivery indicators will be confirmed based on final list of actions adopted	

Evaluating programs and trials: *Community programs, trials and training delivered through this Action Plan will be evaluated as they are developed and implemented. Evaluation will be proportionate to the scale and purpose of each initiative and may include participation and uptake, reach among priority communities, participant feedback or changes in knowledge or confidence following participation.*

Monitoring, review and reporting

Delivery will be monitored through an internal implementation plan, which will track progress against each action and capture relevant program outcomes. Progress will be reviewed internally each quarter to support accountability, identify barriers early and adjust delivery where required.

Progress against this Action Plan, along with progress across the other four companion Action Plans, will be reported publicly through an annual Sustainable Stonnington 2040 update.

This Action Plan reflects our priorities and commitments at the time of adoption. As delivery progresses, new evidence, partnerships, funding opportunities or emerging climate risks may require us to adjust our approach. Any material additions or changes will be tracked through the internal implementation plan and reported through annual updates.

This Action Plan will be formally reviewed and updated in the final year of its three-year term, or sooner if circumstances require it.

