

Stage 2 Stakeholder Consultation Report

Developing Geelong's Climate Change Response Plan – March 2021

Prepared for:  **GEELONG**

Prepared by:  *Encader* Consulting

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Prepared for:

City of Greater Geelong

Prepared by

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**Disclaimer**

Encader Consulting has prepared this document for the City of Greater Geelong to inform the development of a municipal climate change response plan. While it presents synthesised information from stakeholder engagement activities, it should not be considered as a formal expression of any view or position. Encader Consulting undertakes no duty to nor accepts any responsibility to any third party who may rely upon this document.

Introduction

The City of Greater Geelong (the City) is working with its community to develop a municipality-wide Climate Change Response Plan (CCRP). This Plan will address both adaptation and mitigation responses to the climate emergency and include actions the City will take and support for the local community and business to act.

The City is undertaking a four-stage deliberative and participatory engagement process to develop the CCRP.

This report summarises feedback from a series of five workshops held in February and March 2021. These workshops canvassed feedback from stakeholders, the community, and councillors on the draft responses.

The feedback has been organised according to themes, including;

- Reducing residential emissions
- Reducing business emissions
- Becoming a climate-ready city-region
- Implementing the Plan.

Encader Consulting and the City of Greater Geelong would like to thank the participants who generously shared their ideas, feedback, and energy through these discussions.

Method

The City is undertaking a four-stage deliberative and participatory engagement process to develop the CCRP, as outlined in Stage 1 involved direct discussions with City staff and targeted external stakeholders to identify and understand critical issues and contextual information.

Stage 2 engagement activities included an online participatory engagement portal and a series of co-design workshops with stakeholders in December 2020.

The second part of this stage, which is the subject of this report, involved a series of workshops in February and March 2021 in testing and revising those responses:

- Workshop 1: Reducing residential emissions (22/02/2020, 9.30-11.30am)
- Workshop 2: Reducing business emissions (23/2/202, 10.00-11.30am)
- Workshop 3: Becoming a climate-ready city-region (24/02/2021, 9.30-11.30 am)
- Workshop 4: Councillors Forum (03/03/2021, 6.00-7.00pm)
- Workshop 5: Community Forum (4/03/2021, 10.00-11.30am)

Due to the COVID19 situation, all workshops except for the Councillors Forum were conducted online, via Zoom.

Figure 1.

This method is consistent with the City's general stakeholder engagement framework and aligned with the Beyond Zero Emissions Carbon Communities Guide (BZE, 2020).

Stage 1 involved direct discussions with City staff and targeted external stakeholders to identify and understand critical issues and contextual information.

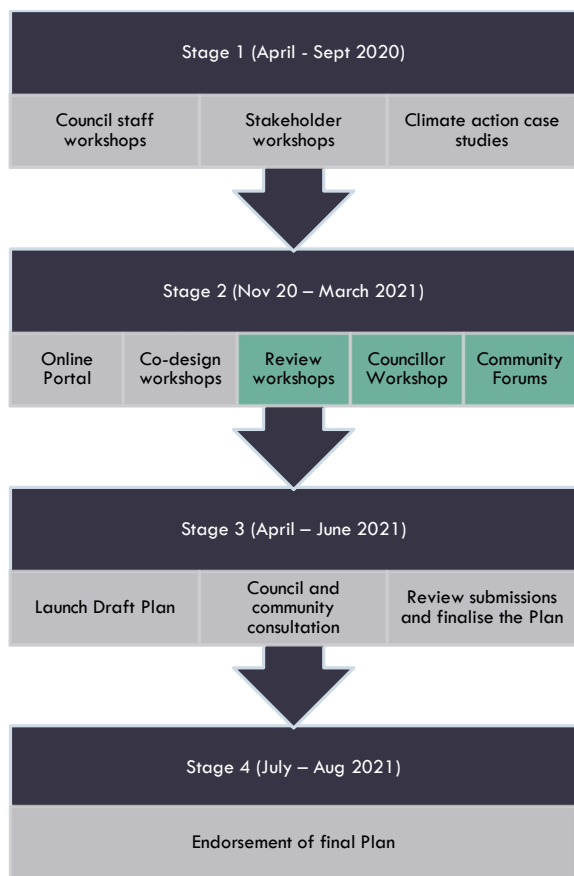
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FIGURE 1 CCRP ENGAGEMENT METHOD



Feedback

This section presents the synthesised feedback from each of the five workshops. The structure of the content reflects the themes emerging from the discussions.

Theme 1 Community Emissions Target

- Emphasis on the need for an ambitious target for reducing community emissions
- Importance of having genuine targets for various actions
- A concern of the impacts of emissions reduction targets on business
- Consider including emissions from agriculture in the community emissions footprint
- Better data could be considered for the regional emissions footprint
- Review and update the Low Carbon Growth Plan to provide evidence-based marginal abatement cost curve

Theme 2 Reducing Residential Emissions

Energy

- individuals and community groups require support in terms of awareness-raising, training, and funding
- Encourage Council to adopt a climate-ready response on gas in new developments
- The Council needs to take a public stand against gas in new developments

Transport

- A concern with mixed messages from the Council regarding priority for active travel, walkable cities, end-to-end cycle paths
- Utilise existing active travel groups (e.g. Bellarine Belles)
- GS Bulk buy of second-hand Nissan Leaf's with Good Car Co
- Support for more EV charging stations and transition to electric buses
- EV charging locations are already mapped <https://www.plugshare.com/>
- Note that remote working is reducing transport emissions, but door-to-door deliveries is increasing them
- ARENA future fuels fund, 17M\$ for EV charging infrastructure in regions <https://arena.gov.au/news/future-fuels-fund-off-and-racing/>
- Utilise existing car-sharing platforms like Car Next Door

- CoGG advocacy for vehicle emissions standards and public transport network improvements

Waste

- Concern about conflicting messages from the Council regarding nature strips for aesthetic and productive gardens
- Support for Plastic Free Geelong
- Resource Recovery Centres need to be revamped to make them more effective and support Repair Cafes

Theme 3 Reducing Business Emissions

- Concern about limited representation by businesses
- Businesses who are active should be promoted as climate action champions

Energy

- Support for a Microgrid trial
- Council as a facilitator and advocate for regional businesses who want to act, such as renewable energy PPAs
- Council more strongly advocating for enabling legislation, e.g. microgrid developments Hydrogen Pilot
- Council providing an outreach service to businesses
- A regional offsets program that business can invest in to achieve their emissions goals

Waste

- Council to lead the circular economy, such as through Deakin Regional Innovation for a Circular Economy (RICE)

Theme 4 Becoming a climate-ready city-region

Improve awareness of risks and impacts

- Increasing wind velocity is another potential climate-related risk
- Council has a lead role in education and awareness of climate risks and impacts
- Explain what's in it for me; how can I help; how Council and community can work together – need a visual to show this.
- Establish a regional team of climate action mobilisers (similar to Landcare facilitators)

Improve collaboration and networks

- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Improve collaboration across agencies for community engagement activities

- Council leadership in reducing land clearing and support reforestation
- How to engage without the climate change tag line
- Conduct a Climate Emergency Conference

Theme 5 Implementing the Plan

Consultation and coordination

- Establish a joint City/Community Working Group to coordinate, drive and report on progress with actions and performance against targets
- The Plan should include clear actions that can be prioritised based on ease and impact

Education and awareness

- Communication with the general community will be critical to raise awareness of the issues and to engender a sense of ownership
- Strong support for clear language reflecting the crisis; suggest renaming the Plan to be the Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Focus on the opportunities, rather than the challenges; need positive language
- Need a clear communication and engagement plan for all climate action related messages
- Need an annual climate action scorecard report and report to stakeholders regularly
- Need a consolidated municipal-wide website for all climate action related initiatives
- Need to communicate the crisis – that warming will continue, and we need to draw down carbon as well as reduce emissions
- Program of education and awareness leveraging existing models, e.g. Transition Streets, Sustainable House Day
- Concern that the Take 2 Pledge has not worked

Capacity Building

- Leverage existing locally available talent and projects to build community capacity
- Celebrate community efforts
- Clarify what the community groups are doing

Case studies

- Rotary Highton - Protect Planet Earth Program Case Study
- GS Greenlight social enterprise helps business
- Humans in Geelong; case study
- CORENA: <https://corenafund.org.au>
- Solar Savers - City of Moreland?

Resources

- Support for more significant resources for the implementation of the CCRP within the City
- More significant support for community mobilising groups needed
- Establish a revolving fund via the regional offsets program

Councillor Comments

- Very good process!
- Community expectations are that the Plan will need to move along more quickly than it is. Aware that we need to follow due process.
- “all about enabling and education.”
- Opportunity for education in the business sector
- Smaller businesses could find it harder to take up the climate change challenge – big business could more easily absorb associated costs of implementing actions
- Green Homes Program for the business sector
- Scaled packages for businesses – small, medium, large
- Partnering with community groups – e.g. Geelong Sustainability Green Light
- Opportunities to get sporting clubs being community champions
- Housing – what people can do. Partner with the state government or community groups.
- Consider a rate rebate incentive program
- Environmental Upgrade Agreements – “pump” these up to increase uptake
- There are European models CoGG could borrow from to stimulate greater uptake
- Dashboard to show community effort
- Tree planting – plant two trees on a nature strip instead of one.
- Behavioural economic tools – to shift and nudge behaviour
- Energy tracking for homes and businesses – introduce a reward program
- Human & health impacts – opportunities for education, vulnerable populations
- The potential use of the Sustainability Advisory Committee

Appendix 1 Workshop Participants

Name	Group/Org/Agency	Residential	Business	Adaptation	Councillors	Community
		22/02/21	23/02/21	24/02/21	3/03/21	4/02/2021
Alan Barlee	Climate Safety					
Anita Pearson						
Ange Hawdon	100%CB					
Mik Aidt	Climate Safety					
Monica Winston	Transition Streets					
Neil Plummer	Geelong Sustainability					
Paul Westcott	PTUA Geelong					
Richard Hamilton	Transition Streets					
Sue Dunn	Geelong Sustainability					
Vicki Perret	Geelong Sustainability					
Geoff Andrews	Capricorn Power					
Jeremy Kitzing	Geelong Sustainability					
Mark Boroni	Geelong Sustainability					
Sal Fischer	Geelong Sustainability					
Tina Perfrement	City of Greater Geelong					
Kate Lockhart	BLCN					
Maddy Glynn	Barwon Coast COM					
Sanja Van Huet	Geelong Sustainability					
Beatrice Naylor						
Des Youngusband						
Edith May						
Ilsa Barton						
Scott Barnes						
Cr Stephanie Asher	City of Greater Geelong					
Cr Trent Sullivan	City of Greater Geelong					
Cr Jim Mason	City of Greater Geelong					
Cr Belinda Moloney	City of Greater Geelong					
Cr Sarah Mansfield	City of Greater Geelong					
Robyn Stephenson	City of Greater Geelong					
Burke Renouf	City of Greater Geelong					
Rod Thomas	City of Greater Geelong					
Tim Mordaunt	City of Greater Geelong					
Steve Rodwell	City of Greater Geelong					
Tony Overman	Encader Consulting					