

03.04.23 V2 - DRAFT

Cool-ER Changes workshop outcomes report

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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Once upon tomorrow.



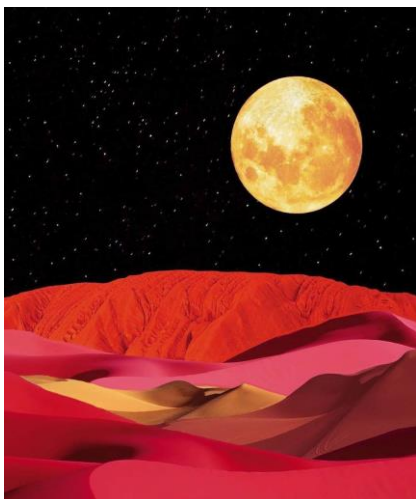


Image: 'Always' by Rachel Derum



This report was developed on Aboriginal lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, whose sovereignty was never ceded.

We recognise that First Nations people have deep knowledge and experience of resilience and sustainability that is critical to heal country, people, and communities. Despite the ongoing impacts of colonisation, First Nations people are still generously sharing knowledge and working towards reconciliation and treaty. For this, we pay our respects and deep thanks to First Nations elders past and present, and extend this to all First Nations people. We endeavour to learn from and lift up First Nations expertise in our work.

We live, work and play on Aboriginal land. 1% of our income is paid to Traditional Owners. We encourage everyone to Pay the Rent.

Let Me Be Frank is a member of 1% for the Planet. We donate 1% of our annual income to environmental organisations. We are proud to be part of a global network that is accelerating smart environmental giving.

Disclaimer

This document and the information it contains was current at the date of publication and may not reflect events or circumstances which occurred at a later date. The content of this document was developed using the best available information and in good faith. Let Me Be Frank, Once Upon Tomorrow and our collaborators cannot be held liable for the accuracy of the information presented in this document.

Post Fossil Fuels Action Rankings

The table below provides the synthesised results of the small group assessment activity and the large group prioritisation activity. The Actions are provided in a table in order of their score (between 1-10, with 10 being the most effective responses to climate change while 1 the least) plus the number of sticky dots or votes each action received.

0 Represent the number of sticky dots each action received.

Action name and ratings	Notes provided for the action
Small group action score: 10	
<p>Integrated Sustainable Transport Strategy (Public transport)</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported transport options (Public transport) • Community Bus (Public transport) • Car Share (Public transport) <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Sustainable Transport Strategy Action was proposed to include pilots (as opposed to feasibility studies) of three actions which have all been assessed as one action • The lead organisation would be MRSC and collaborators to include Bicycle User Groups, schools, and more • The benefits of an integrated strategy are numerous. Includes strategic and coordinated guidance for local initiatives, for further advocacy, a holistic approach to integrate active transport and feed into existing/underway plans such as EV and e-bike chargers in new developments. Each action would support and amplify each other providing a more thorough approach to planning and testing approaches on the ground. The group was keen to see action as opposed to numerous time consuming feasibility strategies • Additional ideas included the creation of a map and street signs for cycling and walking – improve information and accessibility, EV and e-bike charging stations to support the transition and to be strategic about their locations – i.e. train stations, tourist town locations (to enable local economy), and in solar car parks and roof tops • There needs to be a commitment to infrastructure to support the trials so that successful trials become BAU • There is an opportunity to connect isolated townships to larger towns and public transport

<p>Bulk solar / uptake initiatives and grants (clean energy and storage)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the action covers retrofitting existing homes and using Council’s development leavers to drive solar on new developments • Key organisations include State Government and Council (who could provide the loans) • Collaborators could include MRSG (Greg) and Hepburn bulk buy and learning from the Darebin model • Benefits include getting off fossil fuels and emissions reduction • MRSG and Gisborne Renewable Energy Group have related projects underway • Resources required include planning requirements, education for the community, and promotion
<p>Small group action score: 9.5</p>	
<p>Increase solar energy generation and storage (clean energy and storage)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is momentum. Council already has a number of solar systems • Explore opportunities for micro-hydro and capping at the transfer station • Benefits include lower emissions, tourism/branding potential and supporting an EV fleet • Ensure there are benefits for community groups/organisation that lease buildings from Council
<p>Small group action score: 9</p>	
<p>Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group – Renewable Energy Action Group (community transition)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead organisation is MRSG. This is an existing group. • Benefits include helping people to innovate, helping passionate people to identify opportunities, knowledge sharing, mitigation efforts if projects get off the ground, hold info sessions for residents, brings the local voice into discussions and debate
<p>EV infrastructure (Electric & alternative powered vehicles)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead organisation is MRSC as the aim is to develop a policy to guide future EV charging infrastructure across the Shire. • Benefits include council demonstrating leadership and branding Macedon Ranges as an eco-tourism destination – sustainable economic development. The action provides the opportunity for council to be strategic and have an early say on where charging infrastructure will be located that maximises community benefit. • This action should link in with the Integrated Sustainable Transport Strategy. • Resources to be considered include power supply and co-location with community infrastructure. Suggestion to install banks of six chargers instead of 1-2. • There is already some momentum with the MRSG – Hepburn Energy – EV Bulk Buy program; council charging stations for the corporate fleet vehicles; Go +ve networks (stations in Lancefield, Romsey and Macedon; and MASH.

<p>Three actions to be rolled into one Integrated Active Transport Plan with trials of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking school bus (Active transport) • Active transport options and infrastructure (Active transport) • Active transport investment (Active transport) <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This action comprises three existing actions and they have been scored as one • An integrated approach to Active Transport provides the opportunity to deepen outcomes and to design the actions so that they complement each other. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For example: trialling the walking school bus in areas where traffic “calming” infrastructure could enhance safety of the walking school bus. ○ Areas where safe and active transport trials are occurring could also trial traffic exclusion zones, prioritising areas around schools • The overall active transport plan could link hamlets providing a practical way to connect towns and people • Walking school bus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council has previously led this action. Involve schools and encourage education on safe bike riding to complement the walking school bus ○ Benefits include health and fitness, connecting people with each other, making it fun and providing multiple entry points to changing behaviour • Active transport options and infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To involve bike education groups, Transport Action Group and more ○ Benefits include health and wellbeing, promoting change in behaviour, creating a safer environment for cyclists and walking ○ Prioritise pop ups in active areas like schools ○ Trial in Woodend near school was suggested due to wide streets and St Ambrose ○ Opportunity to promote safety education like high visibility wear, lights etc. ○ Trials could be staged – trial pop up ideas and then implement long term approach such as converting footpaths to shared paths • Active transport investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This action dovetails with the other two. Opportunity to connect existing paths so paths “go somewhere” as well as where appropriate provide additional walking paths along waterways (shade, biodiversity)
<p>Council to get off gas (community transition)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators could include Powercor and community groups (that use Council facilities) • Benefits include reduced costs, facilities could become a refuge (if off grid), service as an example to owner/occupied facilities, less fossil fuels, modelling alternatives, financial savings flow through to rate payers, upgrade to infrastructure in neighbourhood • Removing gas appliances will create waste. Has Council considered what it will do to recycle?

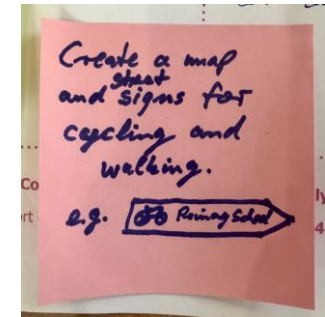
<p>Microgrids and energy trading (clean energy and storage)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update action to focus on advocacy to unlock the legislation that will enable microgrids and energy trading with neighbours and local areas • Council could be a key organisation in partnership with CVGA and Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group Renewable Energy Group (MRSRG are undertaking a research piece that could support the advocacy effort. They are conducting a trial to better understand what the benefits could be from local energy trading) • Technology is emerging, legislation change is needed. Local trials are desirable
<p>Facilitate renewable transitions for community groups (community transition)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborators include community groups, sporting clubs, MRSC Property Services • His action has immediate benefits and is a good half-way step • Supports getting off gas and giving a direction towards renewables • Will this action put facilities behind in connecting renewable infrastructure in the long-run (onsite renewable is preferred over purchasing green power) • Could this action be a quick win?
<p>Small group action score: 8</p>	
<p>Equitable household renewables transition (Community transition)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that this action description be updated to: A support program for households who are elderly or experiencing vulnerable to access solar so they can better afford to heat and cool their homes. Payment plans connected to rates (Energy Efficient Upgrade Agreements • Combine with action 'Supporting the elderly to transition' and consider inclusion of batteries • Collaborators may include Cobaw Health • Benefits would include lower household costs, health and wellbeing, less reliance on fossil fuels, climate just transition, keeps people in their homes • Bendigo Sustainability Group have a crowd funded programs for solar homes (potential for Macedon to learn from this) • International Energy Agency report today on Australian housing and the need for retrofitting and improving
<p>Get off Gas for houses (new)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education of risks to internal use ○ Access to fundings and rebates ○ Access to how to get the transition done (trade support) • Local trades should be collaborators • Can Council pull any planning leavers to assist? E.g. no gas connections to new estates

Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group Transport Action Group (Active transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key organisations include council (MRSC) and Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group • Beneficial to have schools involved: link to Ride and Walk to School Days • Existing projects in Woodend can inform walking school bus action and proposed bicycle lanes (note: check examples of such work happening in Mt Alexander Shire) • Benefits include improved accessibility to adapt, connect community, enhance access to waterways, biodiversity
Small group action score: 7.5	
Local renewable energy projects + Community owned energy (clean energy & storage)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend combining Local renewable energy projects action with Community owned energy action. The Local renewable energy projects should support community owned energy • Collaborators could include Council, water authorities, Gisborne Renewable Energy Group, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, Victrack, Riddells Creek CC. State and Federal Governments may also have a role • Ensure community energy models are designed to benefit renters and people who are on a low income • Resources needed may include seed funding, land, facilitation of partnerships, rooftops, grid capacity, technical knowledge, communications and marketing, rebates from State and Federal levels • Benefits include socio-economic, community cohesion and buy-in, whole of town connection with residents and business, emissions impact • Council and community could support and advocate for the Woodend wind farm. State Govt support is also required as the farm needs legislative change to go ahead • Are there opportunities for community owned floating solar panels on water reserves and car parks? Can micro-hydro be investigated? Are there opportunities for capping at the sewage farm • Where possible, install solar where there is sufficient daytime energy use so solar can be used at the time and there is no need for the extra expense of a battery
Due to a low number of workshop attendees, the following actions were not assessed. It was noted by Council staff that there is already a strong degree of clarity about the direction for these draft actions.	
Support vehicle innovations (electric and alternative power vehicles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
EV uptake (electric and alternative power vehicles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for Council to have info on their website to help residents prepare to switch to an EV

3

Overarching insights from Beyond Fossil Fuels workshop:

- No actions scored below 7.5 indicating a high degree of support for all of the actions presented in the workshop
- Given the actions presented as part of the Post Fossil Fuel Theme, directly relate to reducing emissions (mitigation), it makes sense that the actions were scored so highly in terms of their impact on the climate emergency
- Seven actions have been merged to form two aggregated actions acknowledging that project elements including strategy, trialling initiatives, upgrading infrastructure and community information for behaviour change, can dovetail and when delivered together effect even greater positive change
- There is an opportunity for Council and the community to partner on advocacy campaigns (across the region, potentially with CVGA and others)
- Consider the inclusion of short- and long-term actions in the Plan. We need to get some early wins to build momentum and build trust that Council and community can really deliver
- Instead of investing in feasibility studies, focus on pilots that can scale if they prove successful
- Ensure the Plan has clear measures, that are reported back to the community, so we know if we're making progress



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