

# Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Annual Conference 2022

## Whole-of-community approaches to climate emergency planning

### Panel:

- **Jodi Newcombe**, Mount Alexander Shire
- **Rebecca Petit-Bramwell**, Borough of Queenscliffe
- **Kim Le Cerf**, Glen Eira City Council

**Facilitator:** Rob Law, former Executive Officer,  
Central Victorian Alliance for Greenhouse Action



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# Acknowledgement of Country

***We acknowledge the Wurundjeri, the Traditional Owners of the land we are meeting on today, and pay respect to their elders: past, present and emerging. We acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded and that they have looked after this country for millennia.***

***Likewise we acknowledge Traditional Owners around Victoria, whose lands provide us with the energy, food, water and other resources we are using today.***



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Working together for a climate safe  
Mount Alexander Shire (Leanganook)

**Jodi Newcombe**, Mount Alexander Shire



The **Wararack Initiatives** are Mount Alexander community's collaborative response to Council's Climate Emergency Declaration. Working alongside the Council, the Wararack Initiatives seek to collectively build and oversee implementation of a *Community Climate Transition Plan* that will help us reach the goal of zero net emissions by 2030 and help us all adapt to a changing climate.

## ENERGY GENERATION

### Renewable Newstead™

A small scale 2.6 MW solar farm on Newstead's outskirts.

### Mount Alexander Shire bioenergy plant

A new facility proposed to be co-located with the Don KR facility in Castlemaine, capable of offsetting 100% of the Shire's household emissions and supporting regenerative agriculture efforts. (Mount Alexander Sustainability Group)

### More Australian Solar Homes (MASH)

A community solar buy-back program encouraging the uptake of renewable energy for residential homes and businesses. This program also provides free solar for local schools and community groups through its Community Bonus scheme. (Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance)



## BUSINESS / INDUSTRY

### 100% Clean Energy campaign

A pledge process for business in the Shire to switch to renewable energy sources for power. (MASG)

## TRANSPORT

### E-bike and Car Share strategy

A collaborative plan to reduce car use and ownership in the Shire. (Mount Alexander Cycling)

## FOOD, FORESTRY & FARMING

### Regenerative Agriculture Roll-Out

Foster the uptake of regenerative agriculture practices in the Shire through an integrated educational and activity-based program to upskill landholders. (Mt Alexander Regenerative Agriculture Group)

## WASTE

### YIMBY (Yes in My Backyard)

A neighbourhood-scale, networked community composting initiative. (The Hub Foundation)

### Waste Resource Recovery Centre

A facility that allows for local re-use of waste and reduces waste to landfill and recycling centres. (MASG)

# Some examples of existing and evolving projects

## HOUSING

### MASG Housing Retrofit pilot

A pilot for housing upgrades in low-income homes in Castlemaine. (MASG, MASG and Community Housing Co-op)

### The Hackers Guide to Climate Ready Homes and Gardens

Tools and process to facilitate the retrofitting, including finance, of all houses in the Shire by 2030 with a focus on neighbourhood scale efforts. (Castlemaine Institute and multiple partners)

## HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### Wilderness

Working at the neighbourhood scale to develop and implement plans to develop and implement plans for biodiversity enhancement on private and public land. (Castlemaine Institute and West End Resilience Group)

## HEALTHY ECONOMY

### A local currency, the 'Silver Wattle'

Designing and testing a local currency for our Shire to drive the Wararack Economy 2040 vision and keep wealth circulating within our shire. (Carbon Arts, MASG and Castlemaine Institute)

## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### Cool Spaces

The development of public Cool Community Spaces in local rural towns for vulnerable populations during heatwaves. (Mount Alexander Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership)

## CULTURE

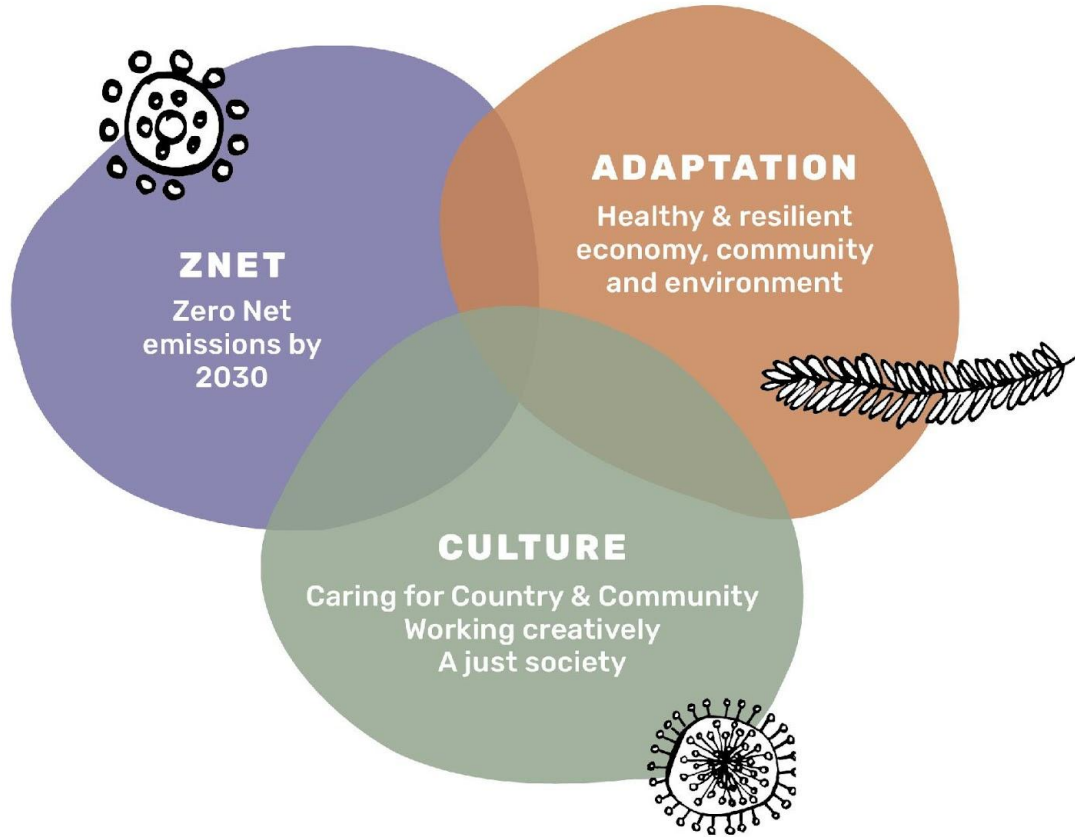
### The Village Square

A 'pop-up', carbon neutral outdoor venue in the heart of Castlemaine supporting First Nations, youth for creative sector project testing and capacity building. (MASG, Victorian Government, Got Lost Collective)

### The Wararack Festival

An annual festival timed with wattle blooms to connect to seasons/Country. Also an opportunity to connect with the Community Transition Plan. (Masumano and Nalderun)

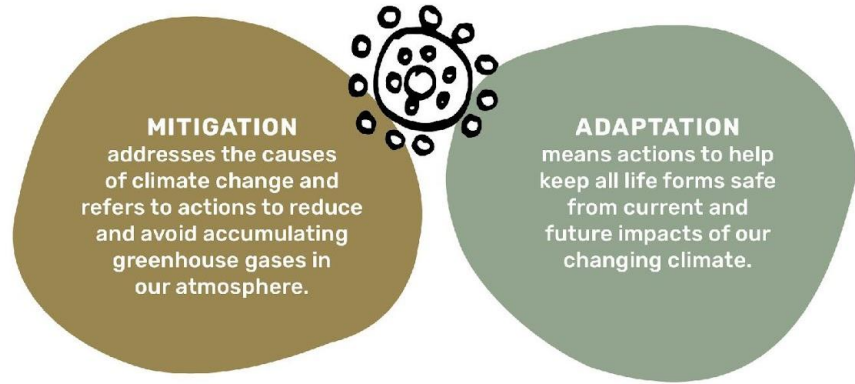




## ZNET

This lens focuses on the science-based target of zero net emissions by 2030.

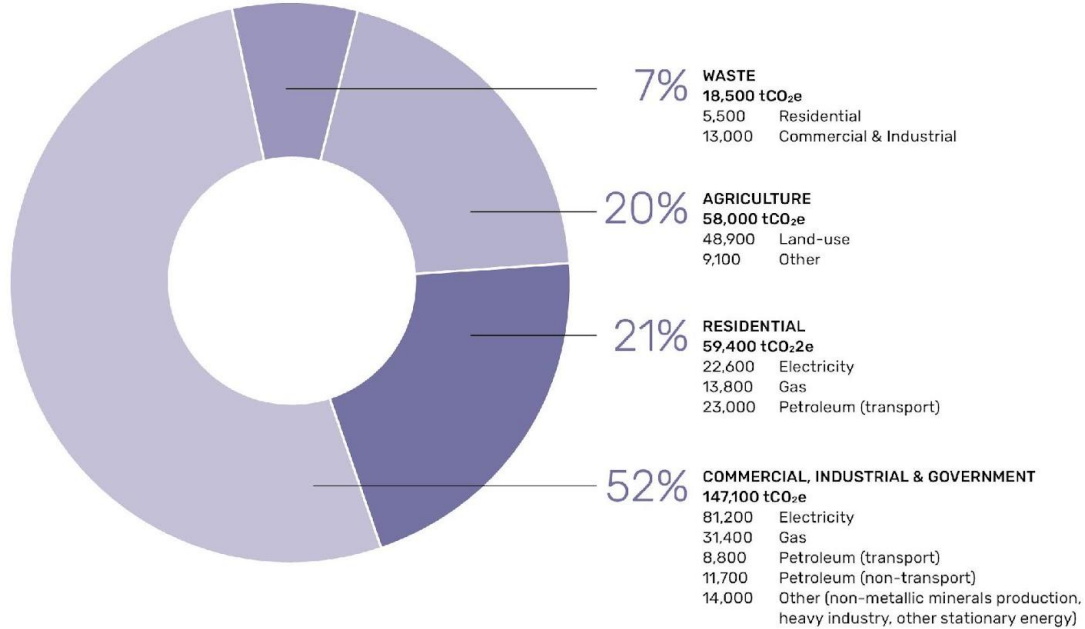
We'll achieve this through a combination of efforts to reduce and stop emissions where they originate and to capture and store emissions already released into the atmosphere through activities like regenerative agriculture and tree planting.



## CARBON FOOTPRINT

### SHIRE'S TOTAL EMISSIONS BY SECTOR AND BY SOURCE

283,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e





## Adaptation

This lens is based on a State Government program called ADAPT Loddon Mallee, which considers our region's climate impacts and responses in terms of three impact areas:



### **Healthy natural environments**

Ensuring the well-being of our natural environment and helping local ecosystems adapt to changing conditions.

#### **Wilderhoods**

Working at the neighbourhood scale to develop and implement plans for biodiversity enhancement on private and public land. (Castlemaine Institute and West End Resilience Group)

### **Healthy economy**

Ensuring the success of our local economy and its ability to withstand external shocks. A circular, more localised economy is globally recognised as being a sustainable pathway to greater economic resilience.

#### **A local currency, the 'Silver Wattle'**

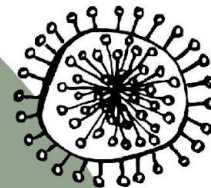
Designing and testing a local currency for our Shire to drive the Wararack Economy 2040 vision and keep wealth circulating within our shire. (Carbon Arts, MASC and Castlemaine Institute)

### **Healthy communities**

Ensuring the well-being of our people and communities in the face of increased risks and stresses.

#### **Cool Spaces**

The development of public Cool Community Spaces in local rural towns for vulnerable populations during heatwaves. (Mount Alexander Health and Wellbeing Strategic Partnership)



## Culture

This lens recognises how our culture influences the way we live and impacts upon our climate.

It reflects the need to embrace a culture of care, one that recognises we are in a dynamic and interdependent relationship with all living things. This is a culture already evident in Indigenous ways of seeing, doing and knowing.

### CULTURE

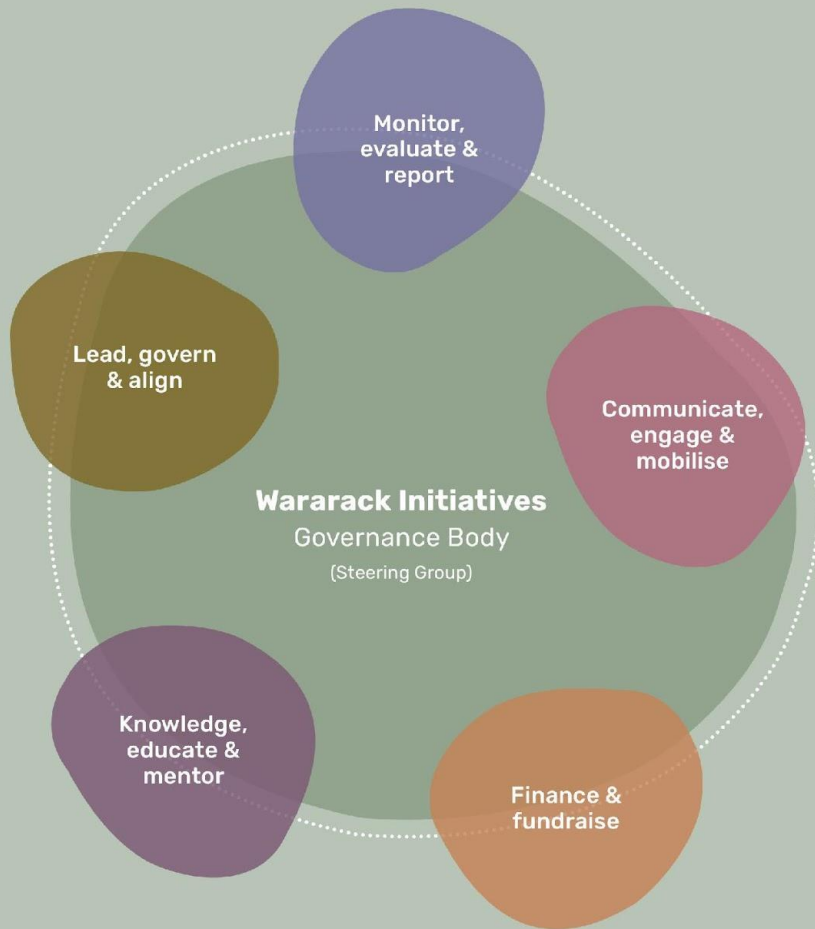
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The work of the Wararack Initiatives Steering Group includes championing existing climate change initiatives and building communication and collaboration amongst the many groups and individuals already taking action.

The Steering Group will work to measure progress, share successes, further mobilise and educate the community, particularly helping us to understand differences in how we each see the world.

Thank you!

[www.wararack.org](http://www.wararack.org)

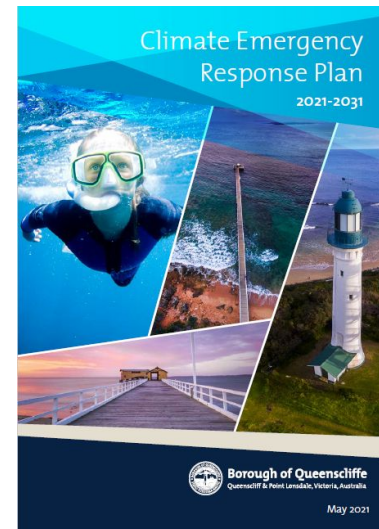


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## Queenscliffe's Community-Led Climate Emergency Response Plan

Rebecca Petit-Bramwell

Borough of Queenscliffe



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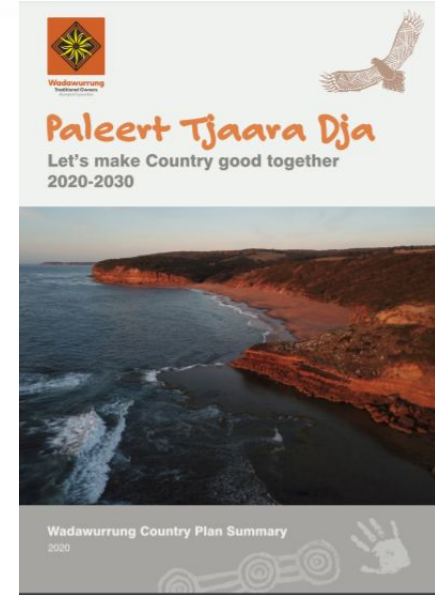


# Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

Aboriginal Corporation

## Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

- Wadawurrung oversight in the development of the CERP and future plans
- Four key Wadawurrung CERP Actions led by Paleert Tjarra Dja “Let’s make country good together” 2020-2030 Wadawurrung Country Plan
- BoQ Cultural Awareness training and RAP



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# Working with the Community

- Queenscliffe Climate Action Group (QCAG)
- Co-designed Council and Community workshops to develop the CERP
- Community Survey's
- Shared vision & targets
- Community & organisation commitment to actions
- Council adoption



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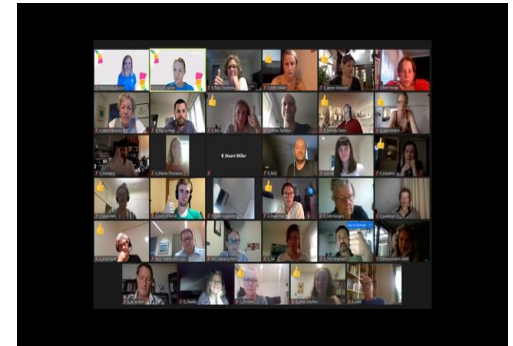
# Eight Pillars & 49 Actions

- Commitment to continue CERP reviews with Wadawurrung and the Community
- Annual report to Council on implementation progress/actions, & linked to Council Plan
- 10 year plan, reviewed every two years
- Major Review at 5 years

-  **1** Wadawurrung Country, Cultural Heritage and Values
-  **2** Renewable Energy
-  **3** Sustainable Buildings
-  **4** Sustainable Transport
-  **5** Mobilisation, Education and Collaboration
-  **6** Adaptation and Resilience
-  **7** Consumption and Waste
-  **8** Environmental Regeneration

# Community-Led & Council-Led Actions & partnerships)

- Community-led actions (with Council partnerships)
- QCAG MoU & Pillar management
- Over twenty community groups & organisations are part of implementing the CERP (Quarterly check-ins)



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## Questions?

Rebecca Petit-Bramwell  
Project Officer- Climate  
Emergency Response Plan  
Borough of Queenscliffe

Phone: 0427 068 736

Email:  
[Rebecca.Petit-Bramwell@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Petit-Bramwell@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)

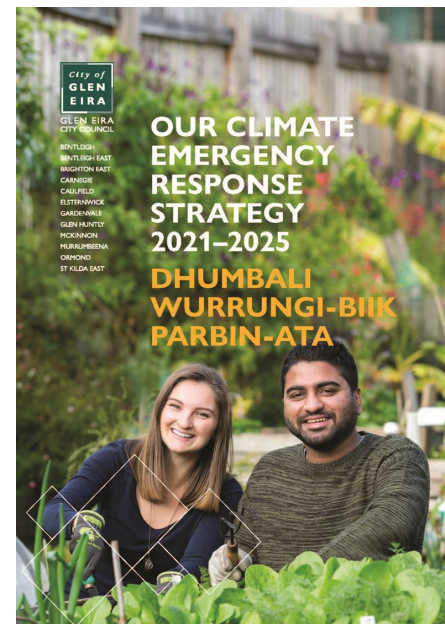
Website:  
[www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cern](http://www.queenscliffe.vic.gov.au/cern)



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## INTEGRATING BOONWURRUNG TRADITIONAL OWNER KNOWLEDGE INTO CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLANNING

Kim Le Cerf  
Glen Eira City Council



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# Cultural safety

## Djilbruk / Respect is more than a word.

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges that Boonwurrung language and concepts contained in this document are the cultural Intellectual Property (IP) of the Boonwurrung people. Council has been granted permission to include the cultural content contained in this document, with acknowledgment of its authors, N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs and David Tournier. It is shared for the purposes of this strategic report and associated communications and must not be used for other purposes without the appropriate permissions of N'arweet Carolyn Briggs and the Boonwurrung Land & Sea Council.



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# Strategy development timeline



# Boonwurrung engagement process

## Initiate

Initial discussion with Boonwurrung Elder, N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs about the Strategy, its purpose and outcomes.

## Reflect

Process and reflect back what was learnt from the discussion and the points of intersection between knowledge systems

## Integrate

Identify opportunities to integrate into the draft Strategy, or use as building blocks for something new

## Review

Formal cultural review of Strategy with final recommendations

## Permission

Permission to use the cultural knowledge in its final form



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# Reflecting back and initial ideas

## Language

Importance of rekindling and using Boonwurrung language



## Storytelling

Storytelling is how culture, history and knowledge is passed on



## Action

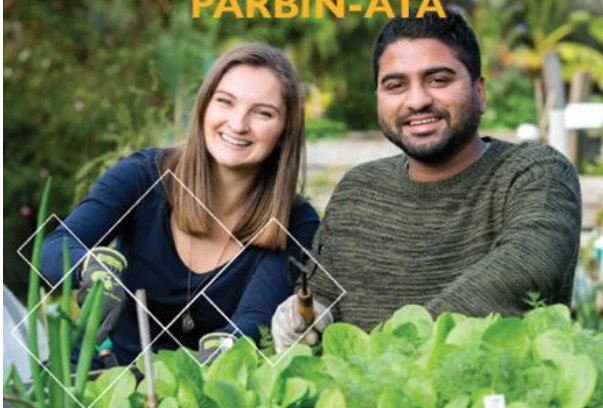
Commitment to actions to further shared aspirations



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# OUR CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGY 2021–2025

## DHUMBALI WURRUNGI-BIIK PARBIN-ATA



### DHUMBALI WURRUNGI-BIIK PARBIN-ATA

*Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata is the Boonwurrung name of this Strategy and translates to 'Our Commitment to the Laws of Mother Earth'.*

As the Traditional Owners and Custodians, they emphasise the importance that change and action starts with us. The core is in Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-ata is more than words but a call to action and responsibility to Country, as has been written in Bundji's Dhumbali.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Glen Eira acknowledges the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which Glen Eira resides.

We pay our respects to their Elders past present and emerging, and acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Glen Eira is situated on the traditional estate of Yaluk-ut Weelam din of the Boonwurrung language group.

At the time of endorsement of this document, Registered Aboriginal Party status through the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, was contested by the Bunaring Aboriginal Land Council Association and the Wurundjeri Woilwurrung Land and Sea Council.

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council recently granted Registered Aboriginal Party status to the Bunaring Aboriginal Land Council Association to take effect from 1 July 2021 which may impact the content of this Strategy.

### THE FILLING OF THE BAY — THE TIME OF CHAOS

Kulin people have a deep knowledge of and connection to Nairm (Port Phillip Bay) and the surrounding landscape, developed over generations, and continuing to this day. Boonwurrung Elder, N'Arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM generously shares the story of how Nairm came to be and why we must continue to protect it.

Many years ago the biik we now call greater Melbourne extended right out to the warreeny. Nairm (Port Phillip Bay) was then a large flat grassy plain. The Yarra River, as it is known today, flowed out across this flat plain into the warreeny. For the Boonwurrung, this wurmeat was known as Birrarung (the river of mists).

This large plain was covered in bush and carrang biik on which the Boonwurrung men hunted gyeiem and barrameel. The bagurrik cultivated the murning. They collected food from the wurmeat and the warreeny and harvested the ilk that migrated there every year.

The Boonwurrung were the custodians of their biik but traded with and welcomed people from other parts of the Kulin Nation. They obeyed the laws of Bundji, who travelled as an eagle, and Waang who travelled as a crow.

One day — many, many years ago — there came a time of chaos and crisis. The Boonwurrung and the other Kulin nations were in conflict. They argued and fought. They neglected their biik. The native murning was neglected. The animals were over killed and not always eaten. The gumbak were caught during their spawning season. The ilk were not harvested.

As this chaos grew the warreeny became angry and began to rise. The wurmeat became flooded and eventually the whole flat plain was covered in baany. It threatened to flood their whole birrarung-ga.

The people became frightened and went to Bundji, their creator and spiritual leader. They asked Bundji to stop the warreeny from rising.

Bundji was angry with his people, and he told them that they would have to change their ways if they wanted to save their land. The people thought about what they had been doing and made a promise to follow Bundji.

Bundji walked out to the warreeny, raised his tjera and directed the warreeny to stop rising. Bundji then made the Boonwurrung promise that they would respect the laws.

The biik never subsided but stayed to create a large bay that the Boonwurrung called Nairm. Today it is known as Port Phillip Bay. The warreeny took away much of the biik of the Boonwurrung and much of their birrarung-ga was reduced to a narrow strip of coastline.

The Boonwurrung learnt from their mistakes. They returned to their old values and the laws of Bundji. They took greater care of the biik of Bundji and the bubup of Bundji.

They met with the other Kulin people and sorted out their differences through sports, debates and dance.

One of the most important laws that Bundji required to be obeyed was for Boonwurrung people to always welcome visitors, and to require all visitors to make a promise that they would obey the laws of Bundji, not hurt the biik of Bundji and not harm the bubup of Bundji.

Today, the wurmeat that once flowed through this large flat plain still flows under the Nairm.



baany — water	tjera — spear	birrarung-ga — country
bubup — child	Bik — land	(river location)
Nairm — Port Phillip Bay	gumbak — fish	ilk — ed
bagurrik — woman	Waang — crow	wurmeat — river
Bundji — eagle (Creator)	Birrarung — Yarra River	bush — grass
carrang biik — woodlands	(River of Mist)	murning — yam dairy
barrameel — emu	gyeiem — kangaroo	
guleeny — man	warreeny — sea	

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# Practical action

- ***‘Explore indigneous ecological knowledge’*** included as a fourth innovation area in the Strategy
- **New and revised to support the rekindle or uncovering of Traditional Owner knowledge**  
e.g. including cultural value of water in development of new water plan, using First Nations storytelling in climate change communications

Action

Four exciting innovation areas have been identified to deliver strongly on community priorities and build on our current strengths:

<b>EXPLORE INDIGENOUS ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE</b> 	Much cultural knowledge has been lost but there are still imprints and memories that can be rekindled for the benefit of the whole community.	In partnership with the local Traditional Owners, we will explore how Boonwurrung knowledge of climate and climate change allow us to respond to the climate emergency.	We will ask what the impacts of the climate emergency will be on local First Nations people; their health and livelihoods, their connection to community, and their connection to Country.
<b>APPLY THE CLIMATE LENS</b> 	Through our climate emergency declaration and net zero emissions goal, we have demonstrated strong leadership.  Our community has asked us to strengthen this leadership and invite everyone to participate.		We will make changes to our systems so that climate action is embedded into the way we work every day.  We will tell the truth about climate change impacts and solutions, and work with our community to amplify messages.
<b>MAXIMISE AND DIVERSIFY OUR GREEN AND NATURAL SPACES</b> 	Our community has asked us to preserve, regenerate and maximise green and natural spaces, recognising that it underpins the health and wellbeing of our community and the broader ecosystem.		In partnership with our community, we will create a thriving natural environment that connects to the Greater Melbourne Urban Forest.
<b>SUPPORT A CIRCULAR ECONOMY</b> 	In partnership with our community, we have been at the forefront of waste minimisation and recycling in Victoria.	Building on this success, we will look beyond the pervasive take-make-waste extractive model and investigate ways to support a circular economy.	We will upskill our staff and our community so together, we can explore how to design out waste and instead, keep products and materials in use.

# Lessons

- Establishing cultural safety and trust
- Listening and learning through storytelling
- Engaging early is really important
- Defining what is in scope / possible
- Looking for opportunities where Traditional and western knowledge systems can work together – it isn't one or the other



# Applying those lessons now: Intercultural collaboration structure



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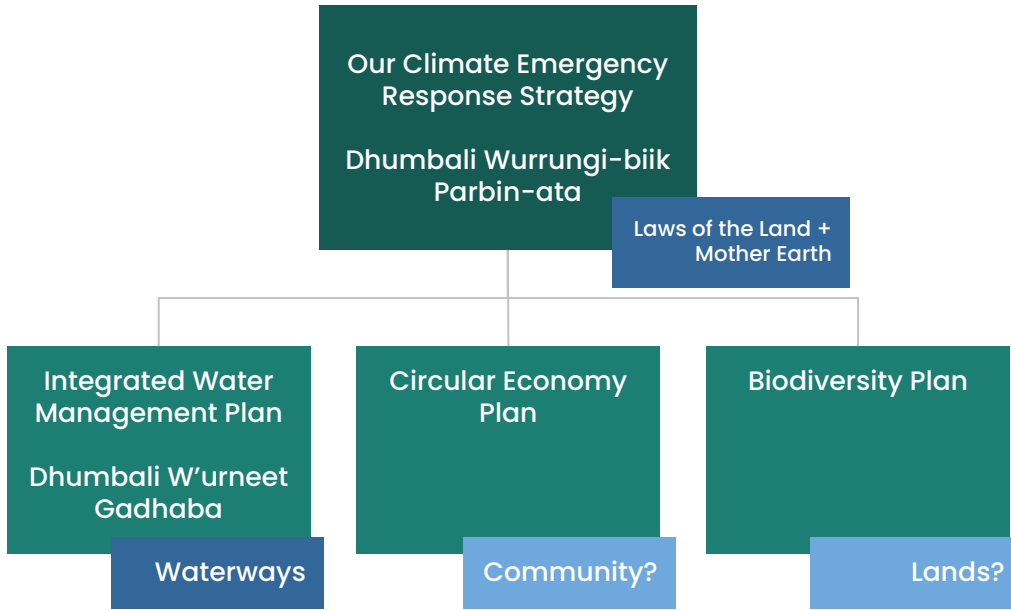
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# Intercultural regeneration framework



## Honouring the sacred laws of Bundjil

Core principles to guide citizens making dhumbali/ commitments to care for Boonwurrung Country



\*Bundjil is the creator spirit of the Kulin Peoples and takes the form of a wedge-tailed eagle

# Integrated Water Management Plan

## *Dhumbali W'urneet Gadhaba*



### **YULENDJI / KNOWLEDGE**

#### *Deep listening*

*Exploring how Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems can be woven together to inform and support integrated water planning.*

#### **Objective 1**

Deepen Council and community understanding of water by bringing together First Nations and Western knowledge



### **BALERT KOOLIN / CAPABILITY**

#### *Weaving knowledge and skills*

*Building community capacity for working with water, including developing training and career pathways for local First Peoples to find their place in managing water Country.*

#### **Objective 2**

Engage, support and empower communities through a shared place-based commitment to work with our w'urneet / waterways

#### **Objective 3**

Strengthen cross-organisational collaboration on community wellbeing, cultural regeneration, climate adaptation, urban greening and water management

#### **Objective 4**

Support planning and implementation of integrated water management actions through urban development



### **GADHABA / WORKING TOGETHER**

#### *Collaborative planning and action*

*Applying Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge to integrated water management systems and projects.*

#### **Objective 5**

Identify strategic integrated water management opportunities in the municipality where ancient knowledge and new technology can be brought together

#### **Objective 6**

Demonstrate best-practice integrated water management through regenerative on-ground projects

**Dhumbali W'urneet Gadhaba /  
A commitment to working  
together with our waterways**

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## Whole-of-community approaches to climate emergency planning

# Question time



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