

Council and climate community sentiment summary



Council has been talking with our community about climate change for many years.

We have reviewed community feedback from the last three years* and have heard:

- Council should prioritise and lead on climate change
- A fair and equitable response to climate change is required
- Traditional Owner knowledge and perspectives should be respected and prioritised
- Council should recognise, and collaborate with the work the Mount Alexander shire community is already doing to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and strengthen community connection.

Results from previous community-wide engagement activities suggest there is strong support for climate action. Key areas of focus include:

- Climate change mitigation: Here, the community would like to see focus on reducing the emissions that are the root cause of climate change, and include actions like installing solar power, using active transport instead of driving, and being more energy efficient.
- Addressing the broader impacts of climate change that affect our health and wellbeing, our economy and our environment: Here the community would like to see a more holistic approach that covers mitigation and adaptation to ensure our community can thrive, even in the face of current and future climate change impacts.

Our 2019 Community Vision consultation revealed we have a strong and connected community. These community connections are critical for our climate change response because they allow us work together, play to our strengths, and help and care for each other in times of need.

In recent early and middle year consultations, kids told us how much they love the local nature, parks, trees and natural environment, and many expressed they would like more trees to be planted. When middle years children were asked, "Which of these things do you worry about?" 41% of them expressed concern about the environment, making it the top issue.

Dkelkunya Dja, the Dja Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-34, acknowledges the impact of climate change.

It states: "The changes that we are seeing in the climate are placing pressure on already fragile ecosystems, and we expect this impact to continue. Addressing these issues is difficult for Dja Dja Wurrung People as there are still institutional barriers to participating in the management of Country. While our relationship with government and other natural resource managers is improving, our knowledge is not often sought and we are still rarely included in the natural resource management decisions that are made on our Country."

*These insights have been gathered from: Climate Emergency Declaration Forum (2019), submissions to development of the Wararack Initiatives (2021), Community Vision engagement data and report (2021), Early years engagement data (2022), and Middle years survey data (2022)

Working together for a healthy, connected shire

(03) 5471 1700
info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au
mountalexander.vic.gov.au

Cnr Lyttleton and Lloyd Sts
P.O. Box 185 Castlemaine VIC 3450
Jaara Country