



# Casey Sustainability Plan

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Vision for the Future:

***Casey – Creating the most Caring, Safe, Innovative and Sustainable City***

## **Document Control**

*Council policy documents change from time to time and it is recommended that you consult the electronic reference copy at [www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies) to ensure that you have the current version. Alternatively you may contact Customer Service on 9705 5200.*

*Responsible Department – Environment*

*Adopted 19 October 2010*

*Electronic reference library version 1.1*

## **Preamble**

*In accordance with a resolution of Council on 21 June 2005 to include definitions of Council, Councillors and Council officers in all Council policy documents, the following definitions are provided:*

*Council – means Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989*

*Councillors – means the individuals holding the office of a member of Casey City Council*

*Council officers – means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.*

## **Administrative updates**

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

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## Council's commitment and objectives

### Statement of commitment and intent

The City of Casey is committed to Ecologically Sustainable Development.

Council recognises that a healthy environment underpins the economy and social wellbeing.

The natural environment, the built environment, economy, culture and social structures are all connected, and all impact on each other.

The City of Casey has a good track record on the environment, guided by successive Council plans as well as initiatives by Council staff. But the community is faced with many challenges and there is much more Council can do.

Efficient use of resources is the key to becoming more sustainable.

The success of the Sustainability Plan will be measured by whether Council and the Casey community are in a better position to deal with the resource challenges of the future, and with the impacts of climate change.

### Objectives

This Sustainability Plan is consistent with Key Direction 2 of the *Council Plan 2009-2013 - Achieving an Environmentally Sustainable Casey*. It builds on the policies and strategies of past Councils and has been developed to guide the City of Casey on the long term path towards a sustainable future.

The objectives of the Sustainability Plan are to:

- Conserve Casey's natural environment in the face of development pressures.
- Help the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Ensure Council and the community uses resources efficiently.
- Make decisions with the challenges of the future in mind.
- Embed Ecologically Sustainable Development ideas throughout the City of Casey's operations and decision-making processes.
- Help the community (including businesses) to adapt to future challenges and build resilience to more extreme weather, food security, peak oil and coastal hazards.

The Sustainability Plan will guide the City of Casey down the path to a sustainable future. It will be implemented by an annual set of actions. Actions will be monitored, measured and reported on to the community.

## Background

The City of Casey is experiencing unprecedented growth. More people are moving to Casey than ever before. But the demography of Casey is also changing and is very diverse. Some people are downsizing, while others are moving into big houses.

As Casey's population and economy continues to grow the demands for water, energy, land and materials will increase. Development pressures on Melbourne will mean the way resources are managed will be one of the biggest challenges. Like cities and towns around Australia and the world, Casey and its community uses resources well beyond its boundaries.

The concept of sustainable development was first put forward in 1987. In its report 'Our Common Future' the Brundtland Commission, which was set up by the United Nations, highlighted the need to incorporate environmental concerns into everyday social and economic practices.

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Australia's *National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development (1992)* defines Ecologically Sustainable Development as: “using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased”.

At the most basic level sustainability is 'use less and waste less'. Sustainability is not new. It is about using the principles and actions that most parents and grandparents believed in and grew up with as a matter of course. Earlier generations were proud of being frugal, of reusing things and of making things last. Sustainability in the modern world is exactly the same – it means not wasting things or buying unnecessary goods, reusing and recycling, and designing and building things for the long term.

Because non-renewable resources have been cheap, such as brown coal for electricity, as a society we have been wasteful. Victorians are high consumers, but much of what is consumed ends up in landfill where it will stay for thousands of years. A lot of what is wasted is food, which takes energy and water to produce, and costs money. Some waste contains toxic materials, such as components in computers and mobile phones, which will pollute the environment for a long time.

For all these reasons, governments around the world are now starting to put a price on the use and disposal of resources so that their scarcity is valued better and their use becomes more sustainable. This will mean many things taken for granted such as cheap electricity, cheap water and cheap petrol, will now cost more. Governments are trying to limit waste that goes to landfill, especially dangerous rubbish. The cost of disposing of waste is also increasing.

The way that Council, businesses and households use resources will need to change - for environmental reasons and for financial reasons. Some resources are becoming scarcer such as water and land. Other resources are in decline such as native vegetation and good soils that produce food. The impacts of climate change will add to those challenges. Casey residents can expect hotter and drier weather and more extreme weather events. We are already experiencing the impacts of reduced water availability.

But in many ways the City of Casey is in a unique position compared to Councils in older areas. There are many people and businesses in the community that are leading the way and showing how things can all done differently.

Casey's young people are really engaged and are very aware of what needs to be done. They are enthusiastic and ready to show the rest of the community the way forward.

Council's Conservation Advisory Committee is discussing conservation, heritage and sustainability issues. Community members provide guidance to Council officers and help connect Council to community members who are actively working to protect Casey's natural environment.

Council officers are committed and enthusiastic. The City of Casey has a staff environmental group with representatives from across Council that meets monthly. Called Team STELLA (**ST**aff **E**nvironmental **L**eaders **A**ction), the group has been promoting, supporting and advocating environmental sustainability within the organisation since 2006.

Council officers are trying to 'lead by example' with the aim of having a lighter footprint in work practices and in daily life. Team STELLA is working on various themes including reducing waste, saving water and energy, and conserving flora and fauna.

Casey is a founding member of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA). The City of Casey is working with other Councils in the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help communities to adapt to climate change. Casey is also a member of the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation which is working hard to progress sustainable development in the Western Port region.

The City of Casey is fortunate in that it is building the city of the future now. This means opportunities to learn from the mistakes of the past and use the best knowledge and technology that is available, to avoid expensive retrofits in the future.

Council is already embedding sustainable design principles into the infrastructure it is building for the city. Many playing fields are being converted to summer grasses to reduce the need to irrigate. Recreational facilities such as the Casey RACE (Recreation & Aquatic Centre) have been designed to use water efficiently.

So the City of Casey is in a good position to meet the challenges, but there is still a long way to go on the pathway to a sustainable future. That is why Council has developed this Sustainability Plan. Council is ready to lead by example and help the community to become more resilient to shocks and change. Every day choices and decisions will determine how sustainable the City of Casey will be and how ready the community is for the challenges of the future.

## Important concepts

The world we live in - the environment - is complex. Although some things are hard to understand, it is important that Council does not 'dumb down' our approach. Council believes that the Casey community appreciates the complexity of the issues Council is dealing with and responding to. The following concepts are important ideas that have helped develop the Sustainability Plan, and give a clearer picture of what the City of Casey is focusing on.

### **Resources are limited and many are non-renewable**

Almost every action or decision anybody makes can have an impact on the environment – positive or negative.

The community cannot avoid using resources, and nor should we, but unnecessary use and waste of resources can be avoided. This is what is meant by the efficient use of resources. Using resources efficiently means avoiding use in the first place if it's possible, identifying alternatives that are more sustainable, using less and then minimising or eliminating waste.

Implementing sustainable practices is as much about good business and financial sense as it is about the environment. The reason for this is that inefficient use of non-renewable resources (energy, water, waste to landfill) will impact on Council's bottom line as resource use becomes more costly.

Resources have not been priced appropriately in the past and so the costs of waste and inefficiency were minor. This situation is likely to change in the coming years.

Water charges are likely to substantially increase to cover the State Government's investment in new supplies of water such as desalination. Land close to cities is becoming more valuable and there are many demands to use that land for a range of purposes.

Much of the economic wealth of Victorians has been built on cheap energy through use of oil and coal. Most of the electricity the community uses is generated by brown coal which produces a lot of carbon dioxide that goes directly into the atmosphere. The price of electricity is likely to increase because a cost is proposed to be put on that pollution. Peak oil is also an important concept to understand. Most of the oil that could be accessed cheaply has now been identified and used. Oil scarcity will mean higher prices for fuel which will impact on the costs of transporting people and goods. Price rises across all these sectors are already occurring.

## **The environment is a system**

The world is a system with many interconnected parts. An ecosystem is all living things, processes and interactions between the living and non-living. Actions in one part of a system will have impacts elsewhere, which is why Casey is thinking holistically.

In a system, single parts cannot be understood in isolation. For example, a car is essentially a system. It is made up of many parts that all work together to move the car from point A to point B. A car requires a battery to start the car and the battery needs the car to run to keep it charged – the parts are interdependent. This is also how an ecosystem works. You can't change one thing without having an impact somewhere else on the system.

And there are limits to the impact people can have on the environment without causing irreversible damage. Many cumulative small actions that damage the environment, such as clearing native vegetation or polluting a creek, add up to a big impact over time.

Climate change impacts means protecting the environment becomes even more important. For example, the vegetation on the Casey coast will help mitigate against the impacts of sea level rise. Trees and vegetation in urban areas will create cooler zones on very hot days. Waterways need to be clean with lots of vegetation to provide recreational spaces and to minimise the impacts of flooding.

In short, cities are systems. People are part of the ecosystem and are vulnerable to the consequences of a breakdown in the system.

## **The lifestyle of Victorians is not sustainable**

The economy operates within the physical limits of the environment. An Ecological Footprint is one way to measure resource inefficiency or debt. It is a calculation of how much land, water and other resources each individual needs to produce the goods and services that are consumed. The current resource use balance sheet is not great.

Victorians typically have a large ecological footprint. Each Casey resident requires over 5 hectares of land each year to support their lifestyle. Resources such as land are limited, so this figure means Casey residents are using resources that belong to someone else, or are needed for future generations.

The challenge for Council and the community is to think about the decisions that are made and to identify ways to minimise the ecological footprint.

Reduction of greenhouse gases and appropriate management of natural resources will continue to be a priority for Council. All organisations and individuals have an obligation to reduce their greenhouse gas impact.

## **Extinction is forever**

The City of Casey needs to continue to protect the unique flora and fauna of the area. Plants and animals need a healthy environment to survive. It is important that they are protected for their own sake, but a flourishing environment is important for human health and wellbeing.

The more diverse an environment the more opportunity plants and animals have to reproduce. Every tree that is cleared or exotic species planted, makes it harder for Australia's unique birds and animals to survive. Clearing land for urban development and agriculture has had a big impact on native flora and fauna. Council wants to protect what is left and try to replace some of the habitat that has been gradually lost over many decades. Otherwise species that call Casey home will disappear, and the natural environment will change to something that is no longer unique or special. This is especially the case in Casey because so much development has already occurred, and will continue for many years to come.

To take the example of the car again, parts of the car can be removed, like a screw or a window, and while it may change appearance or reduce comfort, the car will continue to work. However, if bits of the car keep being removed, sooner or later the car will stop working. It may be hard or even impossible to rebuild it back to the quality it was in the first place. If the loss of native vegetation is not reversed then the community runs the risk of losing forever species that are integral to a healthy environment and the unique environmental identity of Casey.

## **Innovation is a key to changing the future**

There are lots of exciting and innovative ideas in design and production that are helping to change the traditional ways of thinking about buildings and products. For example, 'cradle-to-cradle' thinking encourages design of buildings, processes and products that have a positive impact on the environment and are completely sustainable. Some designs even mimic nature. Examples include food forests in urban areas that use natural ecosystem processes to provide nutrients rather than fossil fuel-based fertilisers. Buildings are being developed that produce oxygen, enhance habitat, provide food and shelter and are made of materials that have been designed to be used again.

Good design and planning can foster resource efficiency. Avoiding waste and pollution in the first place is the key. The Council wants to encourage innovative thinking in Casey to help find the pathway to a sustainable future. This is a great opportunity for businesses to position themselves for the future economy and Casey is already home to many innovative businesses.

## **Everyone can make a difference**

The Sustainability Plan will guide Council's interaction with its community on sustainability and environmental issues. Every level of government is working on these issues and it is clear that many people in the community are confused and feel bombarded with environmental programs from all levels of government. It is easy to 'switch off'.

On environmental issues, as with others, there is no one 'community' in Casey. Council recognises the diversity of its community and wants to support those who want to become more sustainable.

Council will work with its communities to implement the objectives of the Sustainability Plan, recognising that every little action or decision that a person takes can help make Casey a more sustainable city.

## Framework for Action

Council has the capacity to influence the environment in many ways. Much of the City of Casey's activities centre on infrastructure development, procurement and service delivery. Council can also influence others through strategic planning to accommodate urban growth and guide urban renewal, and through permit approval processes for new developments.

The Sustainability Plan will guide the City of Casey to 'get its house in order' through development of processes and procedures and internal behaviour change programs.

Implementing sustainable practices is as much about good business sense as it is about the environment. The reason for this is that inefficient use of non-renewable resources will impact on Council's bottom line as resource use becomes more costly.

Environmental outcomes are important. Reduction of greenhouse gases and conservation of the natural environment will continue to be a priority for Council. All organisations have an obligation to reduce their greenhouse gas impact. Protection and enhancement of the natural environment is critical to enable the City of Casey and its assets to be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Council will focus on eight themes to implement the objectives of the Sustainability Plan. The first six themes focus on using resources more efficiently and the last two themes focus on working with people. These themes will be the focus of annual actions that the City of Casey will undertake to implement the Sustainability Plan. The themes will act as a checklist for decisions and will help Council to assess the success of the Sustainability Plan.

### **1. WATER - Actions to minimise potable water use**

The City of Casey will identify opportunities to minimise potable water use. It will look for ways to use other water sources, such as grey water and stormwater, where it is acceptable and safe to do so. It will identify design options that integrate water management as much as possible and minimise water loss.

The City of Casey has been trialling different ways to reduce its use of valuable drinking water where a high standard of water quality is not necessary. Sports fields are being progressively converted to warm season grasses that need less irrigation. Casey is working with developers to encourage them to design new subdivisions that better capture and treat stormwater, but there is a lot more that developers can do. Lynbrook is a great example of water sensitive urban design.

Casey developed innovative water harvesting approaches for the Casey RACE. Council officers are working on projects such as Casey Fields that use alternatives to drinking water for irrigation. Casey will continue to target big water use areas such as parks and reserves and community facilities, and will identify opportunities to use grey water, rainwater and recycling projects to minimise use of potable water.

Council is working with partners to encourage the roll-out of infrastructure that supports the safe transfer and use of recycled water to new suburbs and Casey's agricultural enterprises. Casey officers are actively involved in the development of an Integrated Water Strategy by South East Water, Melbourne Water and Southern Rural Water for the region, as well as in work by the Growth Areas Authority at the precinct scale.

## **2. FLORA AND FAUNA - Actions to improve habitat for plants and animals to achieve a gain in indigenous biodiversity**

The City of Casey will identify opportunities to protect and improve habitat for plants and animals to achieve a net gain in indigenous (or local) biodiversity. A net gain is where protection and revegetation results in more habitat than what is lost. Casey will do this as part of strategic planning processes, when developing infrastructure and as part of the day to day operations of the organisation such as managing and maintaining parks and reserves.

Casey has in place sound strategies to guide its operations. Council's Conservation, Revegetation and Biodiversity Enhancement strategies provide technical guidance to Council officers and partners on priority areas for attention. Casey will continue to focus on weed management and valuable roadside vegetation. Programs such as Growing a Green Web are a great way for Council to work with the community to restore habitat and raise awareness of the importance of flora and fauna.

There will be an increased focus on protecting important native vegetation while managing for fire risk. A priority area for attention will be the coastal villages where much of the native vegetation is of national and international significance and protected by law. Protecting coastal vegetation is essential to minimise the long term projected impacts of sea level rise such as flooding and coastal erosion. The north of the city will also be a focus with reduction of weeds species that pose a fire hazard.

## **3. AIR AND ATMOSPHERE - Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through good design and use of alternatives**

The City of Casey will identify opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants through good design and use of alternative sources of energy where possible. Council officers will undertake cost/benefit analyses of options to inform decisions about how to reduce emissions at least cost.

Casey is monitoring its energy use and identifying the areas of council facilities and operations that have the highest greenhouse gas impact. Casey has reduced the engine size of its fleet vehicles and bought hybrids, LPG and dual fuel vehicles to reduce fuel use and emissions. Council offsets 80 per cent of the emissions of its fleet through the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance.

Looking at the way Council buildings are designed and built is a priority because of their lifespan and emissions as well as indoor air quality. There are opportunities to capture methane in landfills building on past experience. Council will develop and implement an emissions management plan and identify opportunities to reduce emissions across its operations.

#### **4. LAND - Actions to optimise the use of land and pursue its best use**

Council will continue to seek to optimise the use of land and pursue its best use as part of decision-making processes, but in a way that is sustainable and accounts for all the needs of Casey's future communities. Important features will be identified and taken into account in decision-making. These include land capability, soil type, heritage values (Indigenous and other), habitat values, potential for ecological connections and accessibility for the community. Council will continue to encourage other levels of government and the private sector to do the same.

The City of Casey is actively working to inform the development of Precinct Structure Plans by the Growth Areas Authority to ensure land is provided for important community assets and sustainability is designed into new neighbourhoods. Casey is working to ensure the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is not isolated by urban development. Council officers are advocating for all Casey residents to have opportunities to access natural environments close to their homes so as to enhance community wellbeing.

Council officers will continue to work with partners in other levels of government, in the private sector and in the community to improve the management of catchments in the City of Casey. When building infrastructure such as roads and pathways, Council officers will protect against damage to waterways and catchments by controlling erosion and sediment.

Council officers will continue to look at new and innovative ways to build sustainability principles into the design and management of Casey's parks and reserves. Casey will explore design ideas that minimise the 'footprint' of its facilities and reduce the impact on existing environmental values.

#### **5. MATERIALS AND WASTE - Actions to minimise use of raw materials**

Waste should be seen as a resource. It can also be the end result of inefficient use. The City of Casey will identify what can be recycled and reused as part of infrastructure development and its general operations. Casey aims to minimise its use of raw materials, especially where they are toxic or non-renewable and eliminate their use where possible. Alternatives such as recycled timber and plastics will be used where feasible and cost-effective.

Council is already using recycled plastic in facilities in its parks and reserves, and recycling concrete and crushed rock from excavations for infrastructure works. Casey has some community gardens where composting is used to reduce waste, but more food gardens in the community will be encouraged to ensure healthy, fresh and cheap food is available to Casey residents.

Council has recently updated many of its waste-related strategies and policies. Council actively purchases green products through Eco-buy. Casey has been working with Sustainability Victoria to implement the Resource Smart program across Council and with Casey schools to help reduce waste, but more can be done.

Casey will seek to embed sustainability specifications in the contracts it lets from small-scale procurement to large-scale tenders. This will help create demand for sustainable products and services. Residents will continue to be encouraged to divert waste from landfill and the City of Casey will reuse and recycle as much as possible across all of its operations. Casey will look at ways to improve green purchasing and procurement across all Council departments. Opportunities for incorporating a life cycle analysis into the way materials are purchased will be

explored. Where it is cost-effective and feasible, alternatives to raw materials will be used.

## **6. ENERGY - Actions to minimise energy use through good design, retrofitting and behaviour change.**

The City of Casey will identify opportunities to reduce energy use through good design, retrofitting and behaviour change. Lower emission new technologies such as tri-generation will be investigated where the scale is feasible. Casey recognises there are technical solutions to energy efficiency and social solutions and it will pursue both. Audits are being undertaken of Council facilities commencing with those that have high energy use. Council is looking at ways to build easy energy efficiency solutions into its new facilities as standard, such as sensor lights, and when undertaking renewal or renovations. There will be ongoing assessment of opportunities for utilising renewable energy including any potential for renewable energy infrastructure in Casey.

Casey is assessing the impact of the energy use of its streetlights and working out ways to reduce energy and emissions of them.

Council officers will work with developers and energy companies to incorporate best-practice sustainable lighting systems in new subdivisions that minimise the use of electricity produced by fossil fuels and maximises the use of renewable energy such as solar energy.

Council wants to encourage developers to design innovative subdivisions and buildings that make the best use of natural light and warmth from the sun so that residents can enjoy more comfortable, sustainable homes that minimise energy use. Subdivisions need to be compact and walkable with facilities and local shops nearby to reduce car use for small trips. Accessible public transport in a growth city is essential to future sustainability and to encourage the more efficient movement of people to where they need to go.

The cost of fuel will rise and Council is looking at ways to reduce the vulnerability of its residents to increases in the cost of living due to rising prices of all forms of energy. More local jobs are essential and Council is working hard to secure jobs close to home for its residents.

## **7. BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - Actions to assist the community to build resilience to the resource challenges of the future**

Many people in Casey are environmentally informed, concerned and active. In fact they are ahead of the game and are doing all they can to become more sustainable already. Other individuals are environmentally aware and want to 'make a difference' but face barriers including lack of time, resources or information to become more sustainable. For some the reality of life in Casey means it is hard to be sustainable in many ways, for example they have to travel long distances by car for work.

Council recognises that many residents are not driven by environmental motivations or the environment is a lower order priority. It is also likely that many people in the community don't understand what it means to be sustainable and why each individual needs to go down that path.

Some people don't care about the environment. Many people value the higher standard of living associated with high consumption and actively make choices that

would not be regarded as sustainable such as a large house and a fast car. There are a range of values and life experiences that sit behind those choices, and each is valid.

The City of Casey will use the following principles to guide its engagement with the community:

- Encourage, and don't hinder, environmental leaders, either individuals or businesses.
- Seek to influence people's values and consumption, but recognise that everybody has the right to make their choices.
- Identify people in the Casey community who are vulnerable to the challenges of the future and find creative ways to connect with them and provide useful information.
- Help reduce any barriers for people and communities to make choices to become more sustainable.

Council believes that this approach will ultimately be of benefit to those individuals and to society as a whole to get ready for future challenges, even if some residents are not currently motivated by improving the environment .

The City of Casey will identify groups, businesses and individuals in the community that are vulnerable to the challenges of the future. Council will provide support with information and guidance to help build community resilience to shocks and pressures. Casey will develop information resources to help residents to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate and rises in the cost of living.

Council will work with its communities to prepare for the physical impacts of climate change including more bushfires, sea level rise and flooding. Casey residents and businesses will continue to adapt to the natural world. It will be an ongoing challenge to manage risks, and to run businesses, in ways that don't compromise the environment.

The City of Casey has a proud history in environmental education. Casey has run the Environmental Expo for 10 years providing an opportunity for school students to learn about the environment and sustainability. In recent years Council has held the Casey Cloth Nappy Expo and the Green Living Festival. The Conservation Advisory Committee has been active for many years and supports a strong relationship between Council and the community on environmental issues.

Casey is recognising businesses that are becoming environmentally sustainable and helping to develop a 'green economy' through the Casey Business Awards. Council officers will continue to work with Casey businesses to help them to reduce their impacts on the environment and to prepare for an uncertain future.

The City of Casey will continue to encourage its staff to minimise their impact on the environment through changing behaviour and thinking about different ways of doing things, such as not using cars unnecessarily and simple actions around the workplace.

## **8. ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIPS - Actions to influence and work with partner organisations and the private sector**

Council recognises that it is one small part of the bigger picture. There are many things it can manage and implement on its own, but the actions and decisions of other levels of government and the private sector have a big impact on how the city develops.

Council officers will advocate strongly to the people they deal with in the private sector and in other levels of government of the importance of moving down the pathway to a sustainable future. Council will work closely with those people who are making decisions that impact on Casey residents. The City of Casey will make it clear that the Casey Council and its community want to become more sustainable, and that it wants to work with partners to see that happen. Council will raise awareness of the issues and advocate for decisions that take its sustainability objectives into account.

The City of Casey will continue to work through regional organisations to link in with other councils and organisations. Casey is a proud member of the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance and the Mornington Peninsula and Westernport Biosphere Reserve Foundation.

Casey values its association and partnerships with Melbourne Water, South East Water and the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority and will continue to work closely with the people in those organisations to improve the sustainability of the region as a whole. Casey also values the cooperation and funding support it has received from state government departments and agencies.

There are many issues that are beyond Council's responsibility or control but impact on how sustainable the Casey community can become. These include protection of the highly productive soils of the Bunyip food belt – the food bowl of the south-east. The city has an agricultural sector that has important heritage values as well as economic benefits.

Casey also needs a big boost in public transport to reduce the costly and unsustainable dependence of its residents on cars. Council will continue to advocate to the state and federal governments to deliver on the public transport needs of a growth municipality. This will help reduce congestion and increase the liveability of new housing estates.

Casey officers are working with the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne to raise awareness of the risk of the Gardens becoming isolated by inappropriate urban settlement. Councils are working together to achieve ecological connections across the region. Casey wants to see more consolidation of development around transport hubs and an end to urban sprawl.

### **Many of the best thinkers in the world tell us we need to change**

“The world will not evolve past its current state of crisis by using the same thinking that created the situation”.

Albert Einstein

“This has got to be bigger than any party, any business, or any one of us. We will create the environment of the future, either through action or inaction. We have a choice”

John Duggan, CEO, Gazeley

“For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction”

Sir Isaac Newton

“The future is something that we create, not something we inherit”.

Ian Lowe (The Big Fix)

## **Next steps**

The Sustainability Plan presents the Framework for Action. Implementation is the next step.

Every year, as part of business planning and budget processes, Council officers will develop a Sustainability Action Statement. These actions will be consistent with the eight themes in this Sustainability Plan.

Council will be guided by the advice of its Conservation Advisory Committee and will work closely with the community to ensure it responds to community needs.

## **Measuring progress**

Council will report annually on implementing the Sustainability Plan through the Council Annual report. It will use indicators and stories that help to illustrate what has been achieved.

Council reports on its greenhouse gas emissions. It will work to ensure measures are consistent with State and Commonwealth measurements of sustainability.

The Sustainability Plan will be reviewed after adoption of a new Council plan. The review will take into account changing circumstances including new directions internationally, nationally and at the state level, as well as the vision of the Council.

## **A sustainable Casey - every person can make a difference**

Every car trip, every plastic cup and every light that is left on impacts the environment. It is up to each individual, family, school, business and community group to decide whether it is a priority to want to help to improve the environment or whether everyday decisions it makes will add to the problems that the community are already facing. The City of Casey is committed to a sustainable future and looks forward to leading by example as it moves down the pathway to sustainability with its community.