

Banyule State of the Environment Report

2024/2025



Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

We are committed to placing Caring for Country principles at the heart of our approach to protecting and enhancing the environment.

Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. Council is committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone; principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.



Contents

Banyule State of the Environment Report	1
Introduction	4
Biodiversity	5
Biodiversity Programs	5
Biodiversity Programs Indicators.....	5
Vegetation Retention Indicators	12
Urban Forest	13
Urban Forest Indicators	14
Water	17
Water Indicators.....	17
Climate Change	21
Council's Corporate Emissions.....	21
Council Emissions Indicators.....	21
Banyule Community Emissions.....	26
Municipal Emissions Indicators.....	26
Council's Community Climate Action Programs	29
Climate Change Adaptation.....	31
Living Sustainably	32
Sustainable Living Indicators.....	32
Sustainable Transport in Banyule.....	34
Waste	38
Waste Indicators	38
Urban Food	41
Urban Food Indicators	41
Indicators at a glance	43

Introduction

The State of the Environment (SOE) Report provides an annual insight into the projects and programs that Banyule City Council delivered in partnership with the community to progress environmental sustainability and protect and enhance the natural environment. It reports against Council key performance indicators and presents case studies about Council and community environmental initiatives for the 2024/2025 financial year and delivers on environmental sustainability priorities of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The SOE Report responds to the Banyule Plan Priority Theme 2: Our Sustainable Environment, including the Strategic Objective:

A progressive and innovative leader in protecting, enhancing, and increasing the health and diversity of our natural environment, where we all commit to playing an active role in achieving environmental sustainability, and reducing waste and carbon emissions.

This Strategic Objective encompasses several Council priorities that the SOE aims to report against, including:

Biodiversity: Protect and enhance our natural environment, providing connected habitat for diverse flora and fauna, and putting 'Caring for Country' principles at the heart of our approach.

Urban forest: Protect, increase, and maintain Banyule's urban forest population to provide a greener City for enhanced liveability.

Water: Minimise stormwater pollution and the impacts of flooding and maximise Council's water conservation to transition to a water sensitive city.

Climate change: Demonstrate leadership in addressing climate change and take action toward achieving real zero Council emissions by 2028 and municipal-wide emissions by 2040.

Living sustainably: Empower and educate the community and businesses to take actions to achieve positive environmental and climate change outcomes. Engage and work with the community and partners to protect, enhance and experience the environment.

Waste: Avoid waste generation and a community motivated to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2030.

Urban food: Explore and support opportunities for urban farming and community gardens.

For each of these key areas or themes the SOE:

- Identifies and reports against indicators of environmental change and targets that Council has set
- Analyses trends and results for these indicators and targets
- Showcases key Council and community programs and initiatives that had a positive impact on the environment and community throughout the year.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is made up of all living things and the ecosystems that support them. Nested between three bioregions - the Victorian Volcanic Plains to the west, Gippsland Plains to the south and Highlands Southern Fall to the east - Banyule supports a diversity of vegetation types and a unique array of species. This diversity and the green, leafy nature of our suburbs are reasons why many people choose to call Banyule home. When our neighbourhoods abound in nature and wildlife they provide numerous community benefits, including cleaning our air and water, enhancing our mental and physical wellbeing, buffering us from the impacts of climate change and beautifying our yards, streetscapes and parklands.

Conserving and managing biodiversity is essential for our own health and wellbeing, a moral imperative and crucial for the future of our own livelihoods. Threats to biodiversity are ever-present and climate change brings one of the biggest challenges to our natural environment, resulting in what many experts have labelled the 'biodiversity crisis' or 'nature crisis'. It is incumbent on all of us to be good stewards for nature. As such, Council is committed to elevating biodiversity conservation efforts, supporting, and mobilising the community and demonstrating leadership to halt and reverse biodiversity decline.

Biodiversity Programs

Biodiversity Programs Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of indigenous plants planted in bushland reserves	8,398	8,289	8,864
Friends group volunteer hours at Council-supported events	890	1,180	1,036
Buy 1 Get 1 Free indigenous plant vouchers redeemed	908	1,604	3,598
Indigenous plants redeemed through Gardens for Wildlife	535	528	436

Note: new biodiversity indicators will be established through Council's Biodiversity Monitoring Program, which will be developed in 2025-26, and introduced to a future SOE.



Sacred Kingfisher by Jared Stott

Indigenous planting numbers remained steady in 2024-25, with grasses and herbs being the most dominant forms planted. There was also an increased focus on tree planting (Figure 1). Volunteer hours by Friends groups at Council-supported events also remained steady. Outside of these events volunteers contributed a further 2,000 + hours to enhancing biodiversity through independent working bees, demonstrating the ongoing commitment of local groups and individuals to protecting and enhancing the local environment.

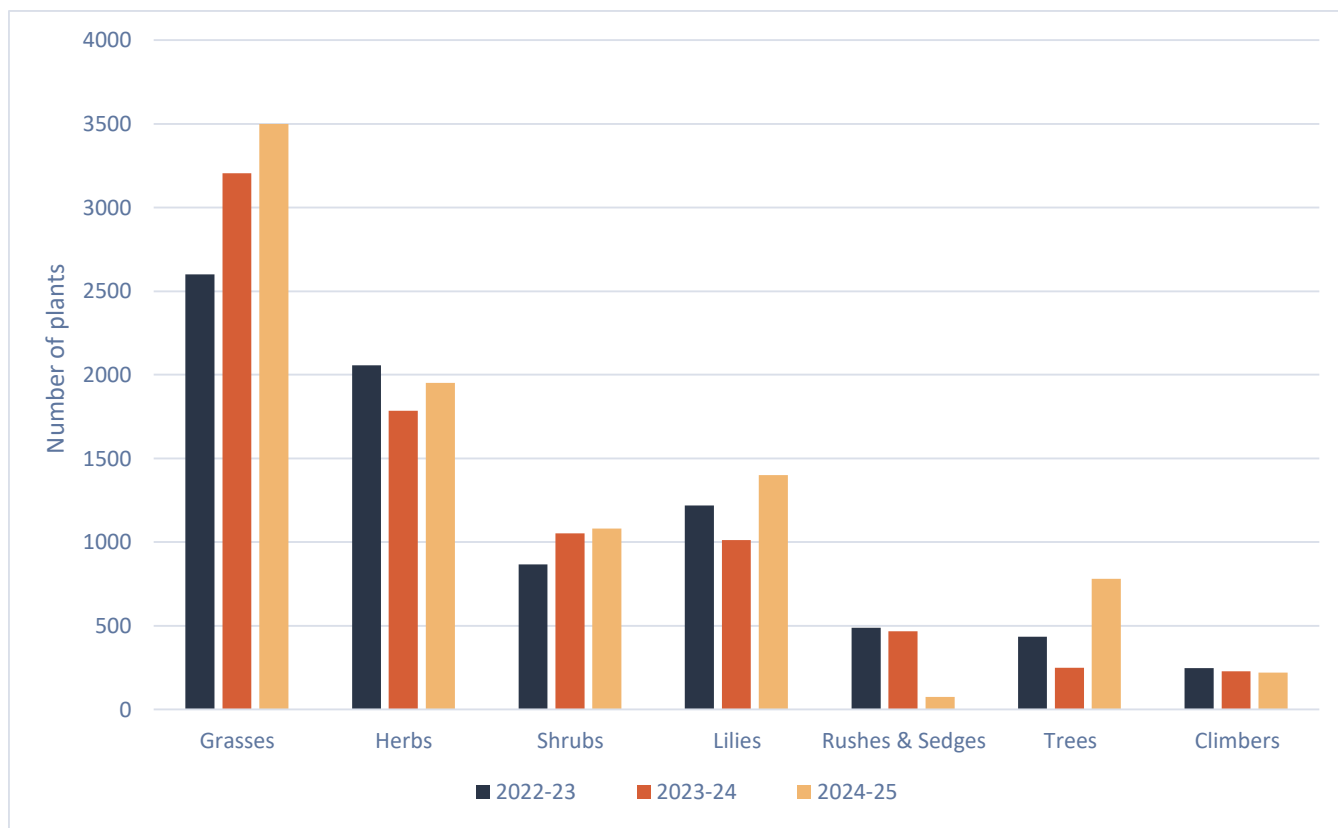


Figure 1: Total number of each plant type planted by the Bushland Management Team and volunteers in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Buy 1 Get 1 Free indigenous plant voucher program experienced a significant increase in participation in 2024/25, indicating increasing community interest in indigenous species planting in Banyule. The number of indigenous plants redeemed through the Gardens for Wildlife program has remained relatively stable, in relation to the resident participation.

Darebin Creek Krefft’s Glider Population

The Darebin Creek Reserve continues to show positive ecological improvement following ongoing habitat restoration and wildlife monitoring efforts initiated by Council. Since European settlement, this section of the creek has been heavily modified, resulting in the loss of mature hollow-bearing eucalypts that once provided essential shelter for native fauna. The absence of these natural hollows has significantly impacted arboreal mammals such as the Krefft’s Glider, a species dependent on such habitat features for survival.

In 2016, Council’s Bushland Management Team commenced a conservation program aimed at supporting the local Krefft’s Glider population. The conservation program included:



Krefft's Glider by Jared Stott

- Installing artificial nesting boxes throughout the Darebin Creek corridor to compensate for the loss of natural hollows.
- Commencing a structured monitoring program in 2017 to assess population trends and habitat use.
- Undertaking extensive planting projects to strengthen the wildlife corridor, including key plantings of River Red Gum and Black Wattles to improve canopy connectivity and increased food resources.

Annual monitoring data shows a consistent increase in Krefft's Glider activity and occupancy of nest boxes, indicating a steady population growth since 2017 (Figure 2). This progress reflects the combined efforts of Council's Bushland Management Unit staff, Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Friends of Darebin Creek. These collaborations have been critical to the success of habitat restoration and monitoring outcomes.

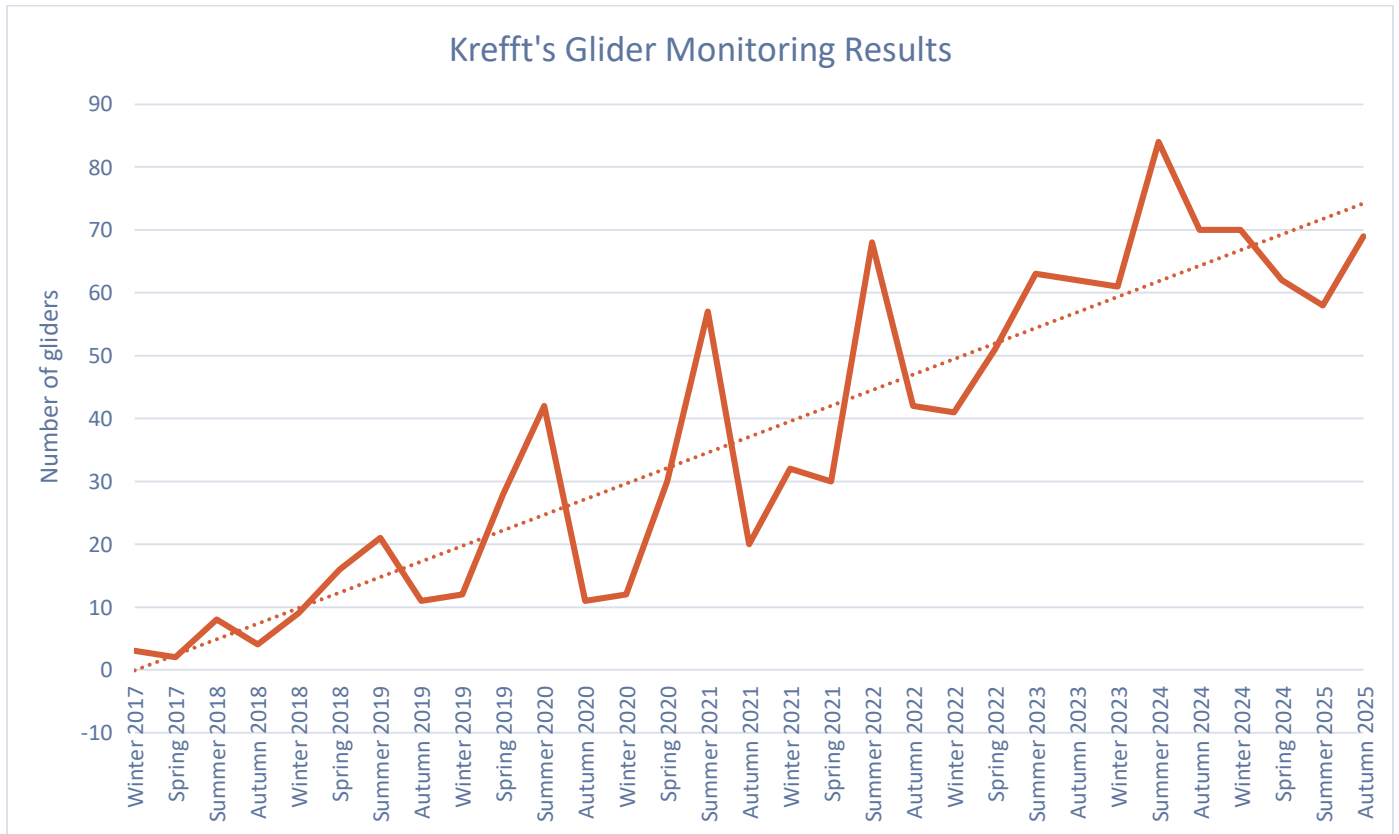


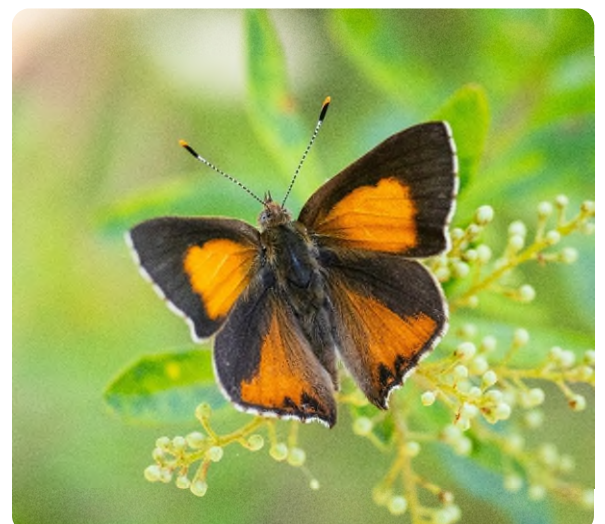
Figure 2: Number of each plant type planted by the Bushland Management Team and volunteers in 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25.

The Krefft's Glider population serves as a useful ecological indicator for assessing the health of the Darebin Creek. Continued monitoring and maintenance of nest boxes, ongoing planting and habitat connectivity initiatives, remain a key focus to ensure the sustained recovery and resilience of this important wildlife corridor.

Eltham Copper Butterfly Populations

Banyule is fortunate to have two stable colonies of the threatened Eltham Copper Butterfly (ECB) in Greensborough and Montmorency. This species has a unique symbiotic relationship with a particular species of ant and the shrub Sweet Bursaria. Banyule's Bushland Management Team, volunteers and contractors undertake annual monitoring of ECB larvae over October and November within the two known sites. This monitoring helps inform management of the species and broader ecological outcomes.

Trends from both the Andrew Yandell Reserve and Mayona Rd Reserve sites indicate positive response to management, with numbers of larvae increasing steadily over the last 3 years



(Figure 3). The Montmorency populations are seeing a significant surge in numbers which could be attributed to the age and height of suitable Sweet Bursaria (host) plants. Similarly in Greensborough, the increase in numbers could be a result of recent work to improve ECB habitat across the site to better support larvae populations.

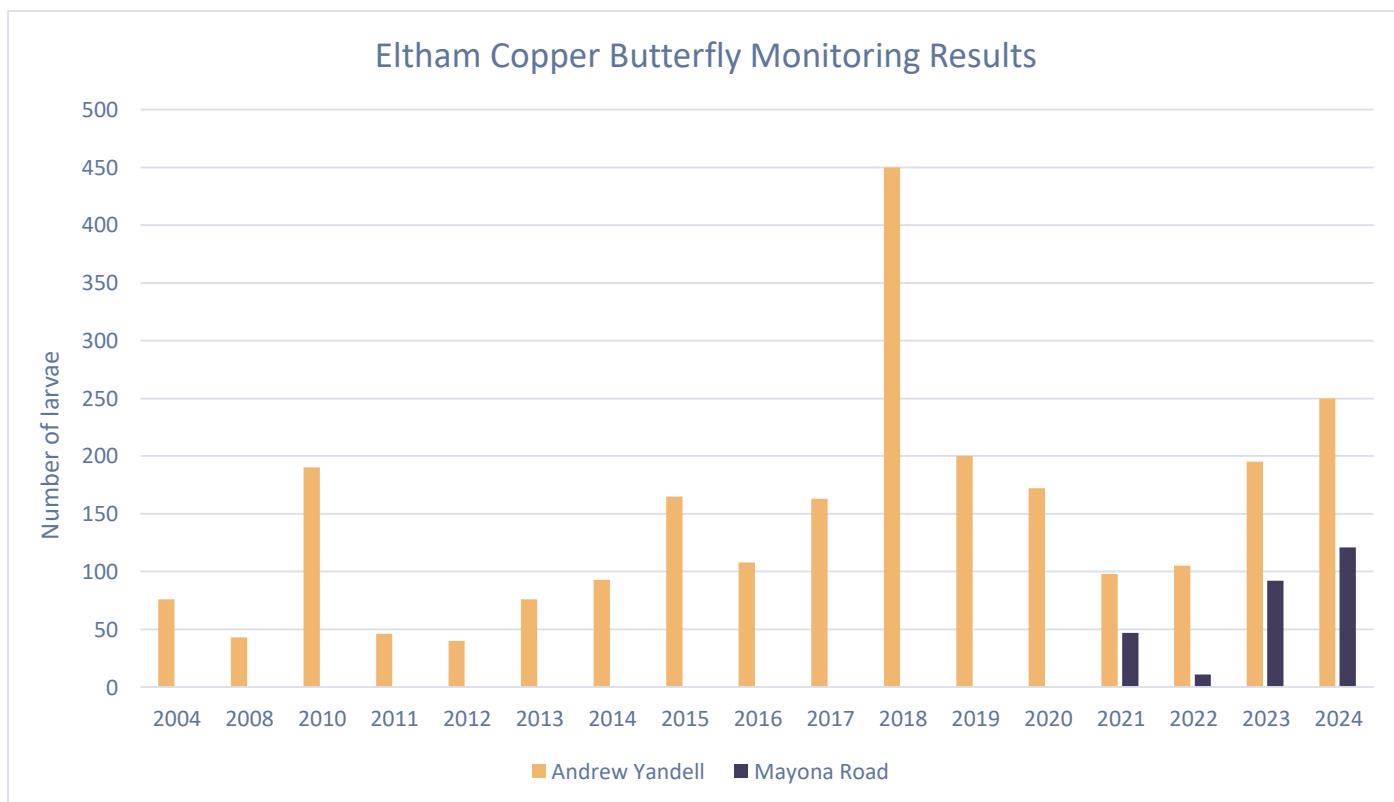


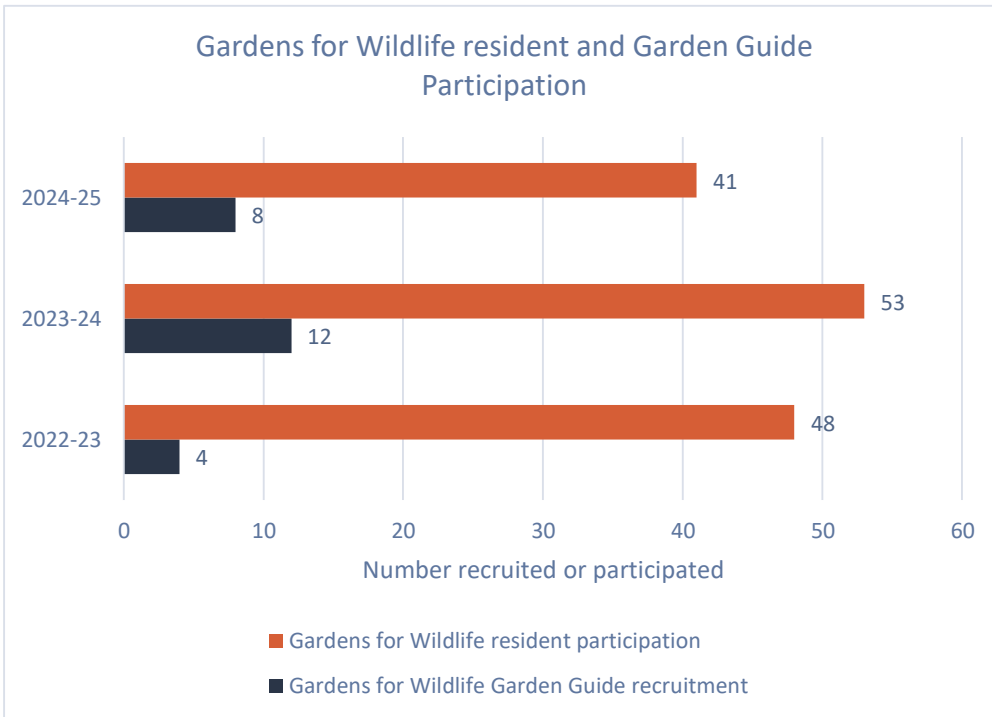
Figure 3: Number of larvae recorded in annual Eltham Copper Butterfly surveys since 2004.

Gardens for Wildlife

Since its launch in 2021, the Banyule Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) program has experienced substantial growth and continues to demonstrate strong community interest and volunteer involvement (Figure 4). The program empowers residents to create wildlife-friendly gardens that enhance biodiversity on private land, largely thanks to the dedication of volunteer ‘Garden Guides’ and Council’s ongoing support. Through garden visits and tailored reports, participants receive practical guidance and free indigenous plants to help implement recommended improvements—efforts that have led to noticeable increases in habitat quality and biodiversity within local gardens.



The 2024–25 year marked a significant milestone for the program, with growing volunteer participation prompting Council to deliver new Garden Guide training sessions and specialist upskilling opportunities. Due to exceptional community demand, garden visit registrations were temporarily capped to maintain program quality. Collectively, these actions have strengthened ecological connections between residential gardens, conservation reserves, and wildlife corridors.



The Gardens for Wildlife program continues to play a vital role in enhancing local biodiversity, improving habitat connectivity for native species, and fostering environmental stewardship. By connecting residents and volunteers with each other it also supports community connection and wellbeing and deepens the community's connection to nature and place.

Figure 4: Number of volunteer Garden Guides recruited, and local residents involved in the program each year since 2022.

Backyard Bird Count

Each year Council staff and Banyule residents take part in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. This citizen science program captures observations of local birds in backyards, parks and local wildlife areas. Bird population numbers and diversity are important indicators of the overall health of our natural habitat and ecosystem function.

Once again Rainbow Lorikeets were the most observed bird in 2024-25 (Table 1). This has remained consistent through the 5 years of observations, and the community would attest to this, with many of these stunning birds gracing our urban environments. Noisy Miners continue to be in high numbers, and as keen bird observes will note, they are becoming more prevalent and bullying out other birds from local areas.

Small native birds (Table 2) are less frequently observed due to being less common in highly urban environments, though are still abundant across Banyule's natural and bushland areas that provide better habitat and fewer threats. Introduced or invasive species have risen slightly in observations (Table 3). Invasive species observations are still low compared to overall numbers, but it is important to monitor these as future trends may signal that intervention is required.



Table 1: Top 5 overall bird species observations in Banyule during Aussie Backyard Bird Count week.

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *
Rainbow Lorikeet	↓	23%	Rainbow Lorikeet	↑	26%	Rainbow Lorikeet	↓	19%
Noisy Miner	↑	21%	Noisy Miner	▬	21%	Noisy Miner	↓	18%
Australian Magpie	▬	8%	Australian Magpie	▬	8%	Australian Magpie	↑	9%
Little Raven	▬	5%	Little Raven	▬	5%	Little Raven	↑	6%
Red Wattlebird	▬	5%	Red Wattlebird	↓	4%	Red Wattlebird	↑	5%

Table 2: Top 5 small bird species observations in Banyule during Aussie Backyard Bird Count week.

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *
Red-browed Finch	↑	0.40%	Brown Thornbill	↑	0.40%	Brown Thornbill	↓	0.24%
Brown Thornbill	↓	0.30%	Superb Fairy-wren	↑	0.30%	Grey Fantail	↑	0.24%
Superb Fairy-wren	↓	0.22%	Grey Fantail	▬	0.19%	Superb Fairy-wren	↓	0.24%
Spotted Pardalote	NEW	0.22%	White-browed Scrubwren	↓	0.16%	Red-browed Finch	↓	0.19%
Grey Fantail	↓	0.19%	Eastern Spinebill	▬	4%	White-browed Scrubwren	↓	0.15%

Table 3: Top 5 introduced bird species observations in Banyule during Aussie Backyard Bird Count week.

2022-23			2023-24			2024-25		
Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *	Common Name	Increase/Decrease	Percentage observed *
Common Myna	▬	3%	Common Myna	↑	4%	Common Myna	↑	5%
Spotted Dove	↓	3%	Spotted Dove	↓	2%	Spotted Dove	▬	2%
Rock Dove	↑	1%	Rock Dove	↑	2%	Rock Dove	↓	1%
Common Blackbird	↑	0.90%	Common Blackbird	↑	1%	Common Blackbird	▬	1%
Common Starling	↑	0.26%	Common Starling	↓	0.25%	Common Starling	↑	0.47%

* Percentage observed refers to the proportion of all bird records occupied by each species. For example, 19% of all bird observations in 2024-25 were of Rainbow Lorikeet, 0.24% were Brown Thornbill and 5% were Common Myna.

To learn more about the Backyard Bird Count, follow the QR code.



Threatened Species Case Study – Clover Glycine

Council's Bushland Management Unit has established a program titled '*Rare and Threatened Species within the City of Banyule*', aiming to protect remnant threatened flora species and reintroduce threatened species into new conservation areas to increase their abundance and spread.

One of these species is Clover Glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*), currently listed as vulnerable at both the state and federal levels under the *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1998* and the *Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Clover Glycine is a small native perennial herb with a delicate pea-like flower, endemic to south-eastern Australia, where it occurs in Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia, typically growing in grasslands and grassy woodlands. The species has suffered a significant decline in both distribution and abundance due to widespread habitat degradation and destruction.

Although the species is found across south-eastern Australia, it is now restricted to a small number of isolated populations. There are known populations in Eltham and Plenty Gorge Park, but no known remnant population within Banyule. Council has identified several reserves that could support a population of *Glycine latrobeana*, and it is likely that these sites supported the species in the past. Given the close proximity of known populations, and the abundance of suitable habitat types in Banyule, there is confidence in the ability to successfully re-establish the plant locally within Banyule's conservation reserves.

Several vegetation communities have been identified as suitable for the Clover Glycine, featuring various levels of sun exposure, soil types and planting positions. This approach provides an opportunity to refine our understanding of the ideal habitat conditions the species requires for successful establishment.

Recognising the potential challenges in establishing new populations, some plants have been retained in our nursery to safeguard against unfavourable growing seasons and to allow for future seed collection and propagation. Ongoing monitoring and management aims to ensure this species can be successfully reintroduced in Banyule to enhance our floristic diversity.



Vegetation retention on private land

In addition to vegetation being protected and enhanced on public land Council has an important role in assessing proposals to remove vegetation through land development in accordance with the Banyule Planning Scheme and State Government planning regulations. This section provides an overview of planning permit applications received by Council in 2024-25 that proposed vegetation removal and what the outcome was following assessment and consideration by Council.

Vegetation Retention Indicators

Indicator	2023/24	2024/25
Planning permit applications that included tree removal on private land	441	548
Applications where tree removal was approved	289	333
Applications where the tree removal was exempt from permit	68	85
Applications withdrawn due to tree removal not being supported by Council	77	63 & 14 refusal notices

In 2024-25 Council received 548 permit applications that included proposed tree removal. In each instance Council assessed the proposal against the objectives of the Banyule Planning Scheme and any exemptions. Of these, over half were approved and 85 applications were exempt. Exemptions can occur for several reasons, including that the tree was identified by the *Banyule Weed Management Strategy* as being a weed or undesirable species.

Council's Arborist Team work with residents to encourage tree maintenance and pruning to avoid removal where possible. The team also work with the residents to withdraw applications that are not going to be supported by Council. In 2024-25 a total of 63 tree removal applications were voluntarily withdrawn by applicants and 14 required refusal notices. A refusal notice is issued where the application is not voluntarily withdrawn by the applicant. No tree removal refusals were appealed at VCAT in 2024-25.

Recent changes to the Banyule Planning Scheme (VC289) introduced by the State Government will likely see an increase in the number of applications for tree removal in future as the size threshold for designated *canopy trees* has been reduced. This will result in a greater number of trees within Banyule's Vegetation Protection Overlay 5 (VPO5) being the subject of permit applications for removal. VPOs are areas that are deemed to hold significant vegetation within the municipality, which triggers a permit.



Urban Forest

Trees are an integral and iconic component of an urban landscape, contributing to the neighbourhood character and appeal of an area. With increasing pressures from building growth and climate change, the ecosystem services that these trees provide, including shade and cooling, air purification and wildlife habitat, will be essential to making Banyule a liveable city for present and future generations and in supporting our local wildlife.



Trees within a metropolitan area that are actively managed are often referred to as the urban forest. In 2023-24 Council adopted its new Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2033. The strategy outlines Banyule's vision for the long-term future for the urban forest and provides strategic management actions to get there over the short and medium term. This Strategy will support Council to plan, manage and maintain one of Banyule's highest-valued assets for the next 10 years.

The Urban Forest Strategy sets several important goals for tree canopy cover across Banyule's residential areas, streetscapes and public open spaces. These goals, outlined below, aim to achieve a strong canopy cover across the city to provide ongoing community benefits, to build strength and resilience in the urban forest and to address inequity in access to canopy cover for vulnerable communities in the west of Banyule.



Banyule's Urban Forest Canopy KPIs:

- Canopy cover across all suburbs (30% by 2050 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target).
- Canopy cover across the footpath and local road network (45% by 2040 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target).
- Canopy cover across the open space shared path network and surrounding playgrounds – 50% by 2050.

Urban Forest Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024-25
30% canopy cover across all suburbs by 2050 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target	-	-	28.9% *
45% canopy cover across the footpath and local road network by 2040 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target	-	-	24.9% *
50% Canopy cover across the open space shared path network and surrounding playgrounds by 2050	-	-	38.7% *
Number of trees planted in streetscapes	1,627	1,498	1,579
Number of trees planted in open space	236	128	982
Net gain of trees in open space and streetscapes	1024	877	1,588
Number of trees removed in open space and streetscapes	839	749	973
Number of trees in streetscapes across Banyule	-	-	72,126 *
Number of tree vacancies in streetscapes across Banyule	-	10,000	6,092

* = indicators that have been introduced to the SOE Report in 2024-25.

- = years where results are not available due to data insufficiency.

Canopy cover:

Banyule has nearly achieved its overall canopy cover target, reaching 28.9% against the 30% goal. However, further efforts are needed to meet specific targets given the inequity that exists between southeast and northwest areas of Banyule. Overall, Banyule's suburbs show a wide range of canopy cover, from **15.6% in Bundoora** to **40.7% in Eaglemont**. These results suggest that southern and eastern suburbs with larger residential lots and established vegetation tend to meet or exceed the 30% canopy target, while northern, western and more urbanised areas lag and will require focused canopy strategies.

Roads will need greater attention, with current cover at 24.9% compared to the 45% target. Pathways currently have 38.7% canopy cover, requiring a 11.3% increase to reach the 50% target.

Trees on public land:

Council tree plantings in open space increased significantly in 2024-25, rising from 128 in 2022-23 to 982 trees. This sharp increase is largely attributed to additional funding through the North East Link Project (NELP) to achieve additional planting. The partnership enabled large-scale planting works that expanded Council's capacity to enhance open space canopy cover.

The net gain of trees in open space and streetscapes has shown positive growth over the past three years, with a substantial increase in 2024 to 1,588 trees. This reflects a combination of higher planting numbers, particularly supported by NELP-funded works, and a relatively stable rate of tree removals. The upward trend demonstrates Council's continued efforts to expand urban canopy cover and offset losses through proactive planting programs across streetscapes and open spaces.

Tree removals per year have fluctuated marginally and have remained between 800 and 1,000 for the last three years. While removals are sometimes unavoidable, Council continues to prioritise retention wherever possible and offsets losses through ongoing planting programs to maintain and grow the overall urban canopy on public land.

A total of 67,422 existing street trees have been mapped, with a further 4,704 newly planted trees added, bringing the total number of street trees to 72,126.

The number of tree vacancies across treescapes has decreased from approximately 10,000 in 2023-24 to 6,092 in 2024-25. This change reflects ongoing planting efforts and improved data accuracy as mapping continues to be refined. It's important to note that vacancy figures are indicative rather than definitive — in some cases, multiple trees may be plotted in one location or planting may not be feasible due to underground services or site constraints. The reduction suggests good progress in filling available planting sites, while also highlighting the dynamic nature of vacancy data as information and site assessments are updated.



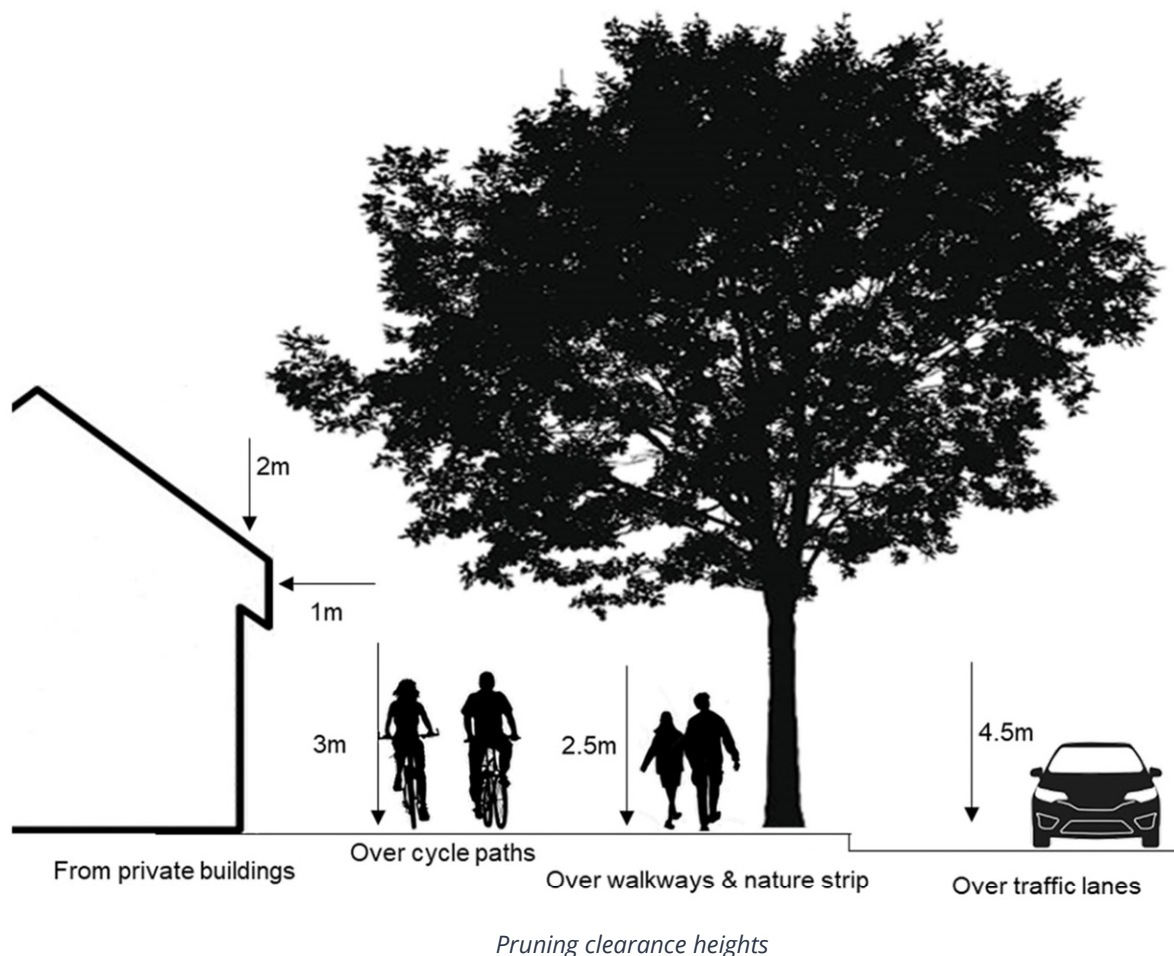
Tree pruning

Council continues to take a proactive and responsible approach to managing street trees located near powerlines, ensuring community safety while protecting the long-term health of our urban forest. Council is responsible for all public trees across the municipality—including those in streets, parks, and reserves—and manages them in accordance with the Urban Forest Strategy 2023 and Tree Management Framework 2024, which set the overarching direction for how we care for, grow, and sustain our urban canopy.

Pruning is undertaken in accordance with the Energy Safety Act, Electrical Safety Regulations, and Energy Safe Victoria guidelines, which prescribe strict clearance distances between vegetation and electrical infrastructure. Although these requirements can sometimes result in pruning that appears significant, they are essential safeguards that prevent electrical hazards and maintain public safety.

For many years, Council operated on a two-year pruning cycle, with inhouse arborists addressing reactive works—such as branches encroaching on powerlines—and specialist contractors delivering the broader cyclic program. This year, Council strengthened its commitment to best practice tree management by introducing a new annual cyclic pruning contract. Moving to a yearly cycle enables lighter, more frequent pruning, supporting healthier canopy development and improved long-term tree growth. This refined approach aligns with Council's broader investment in a thriving urban forest, ensuring our 70,000+ street trees continue to deliver environmental, social, and aesthetic benefits while meeting all regulatory obligations.

Together, these improvements contribute to a safer, greener, and more resilient city. Further information is available in the accompanying diagram and in Council's Tree Management Framework, which outlines how trees are cared for throughout their entire lifecycle.



Water



Water is a vital resource for wildlife, ecosystems and people, supporting healthy communities and productive and resilient ecosystems. Banyule is fortunate to contain many important waterways such as the Yarra River (Birrarung), Plenty River, Darebin, Banyule, Salt and Karingal Yalloc creeks, and wetland sites such as Banyule and Warringal Swamps and Banyule Billabong. These waterways are iconic features of the Banyule landscape, abounding in local wildlife and providing opportunities for people to meaningfully connect with nature.

Council commenced the development of a new Integrated Water Management Plan in 2025, which will build on the current Water Plan and support our vision to be a water sensitive city. At its core the plan will shape how we protect waterways and use water resources wisely. Through the plan Council will identify new water indicators that will be reported on in future SoE reports.

Integrated Water Management is a collaborative approach to planning and managing the water cycle including stormwater, wastewater, surface water, groundwater and waterways to ensure Banyule becomes a water sensitive city by 2050. Water sensitive cities aim for harmony between urban development and the natural water cycle, ensuring a sustainable environment for future generations.

Water Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Banyule Council water use (ML)	242	273	325
Litter collection (tonne)	35	38	31
Silt collection (tonne)	460	300	505

The current Water Plan sets a target for all potable water use to be under 300ML per year. Unfortunately, Council fell short of this target by 25ML in 2024-25 (Figure 5). The main drivers of this are:

- Sports field irrigation was required for two months longer than usual due to very low seasonal rainfall
- The Viewbank rain gauge recorded only 49% of the average Autumn rainfall in 2024
- Kalparrin Stormwater harvesting (normally supplying 38ML) was offline due to sediment pollution from the North East Link.

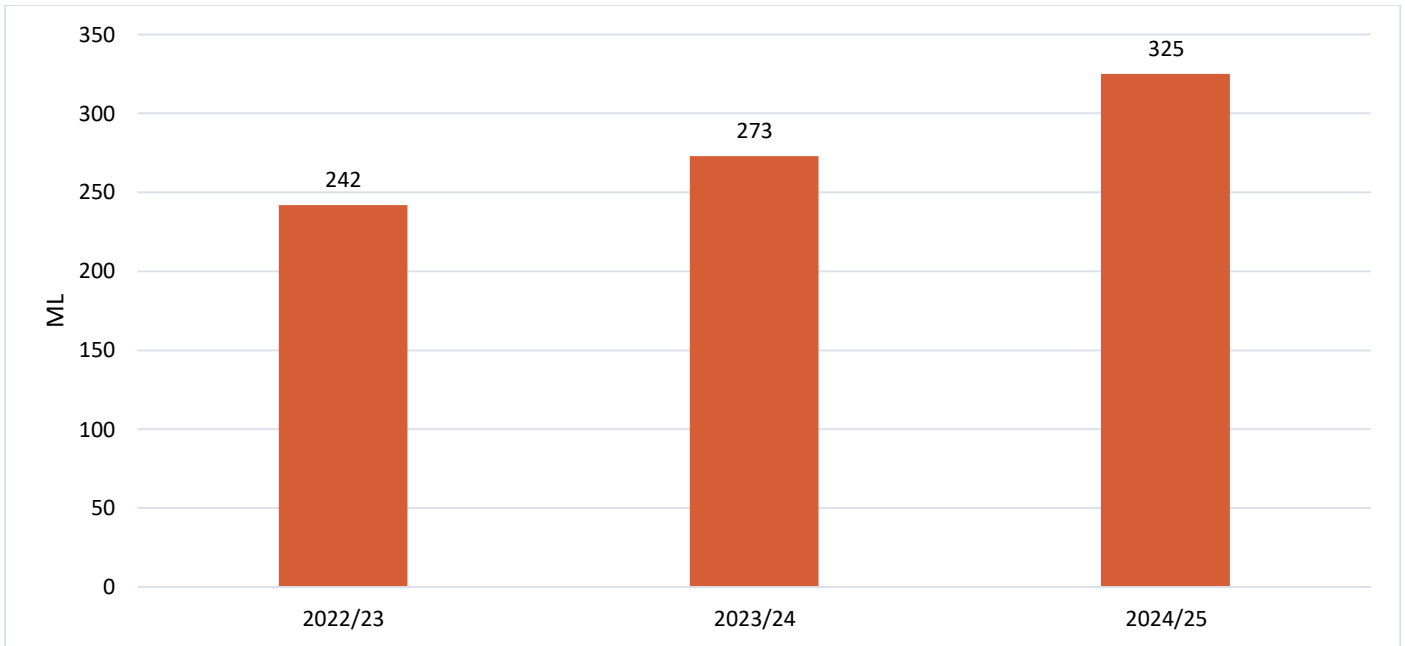


Figure 5: Banyule Council water use (ML) across all operations.

The annual litter removal target of 50 tonnes per annum from gross pollutant traps was not met (Figure 6). Delivery was impacted by short-term fleet availability and staff resourcing constraints during the year. Litter removal activities continued throughout, and performance is expected to return to target next reporting period as operational capacity stabilises.

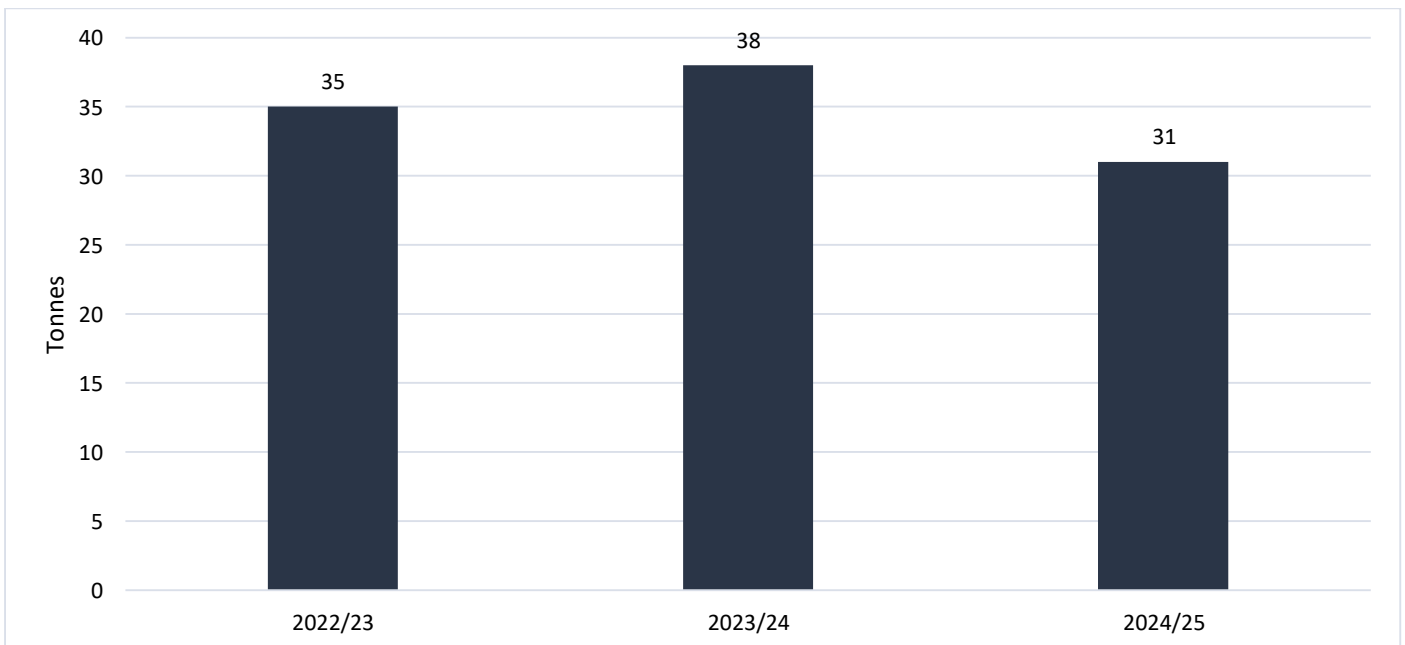


Figure 6: Litter collection (tonne) from gross pollutant traps under Council management.

The Water Plan target to remove at least 130 tonnes per annum of silt from waterbodies was again easily achieved this year (Figure 7). This is largely due to many existing wetlands in Banyule having not been desilted historically, which means they have accumulated large volumes of silt and are at capacity. Southern Road wetland and Chelsworth Park SW harvesting system were desilted this year. Sediment was able to be

repurposed rather than sent to landfill to support circular economy principles and Council's *Towards Zero Waste Management Plan*.

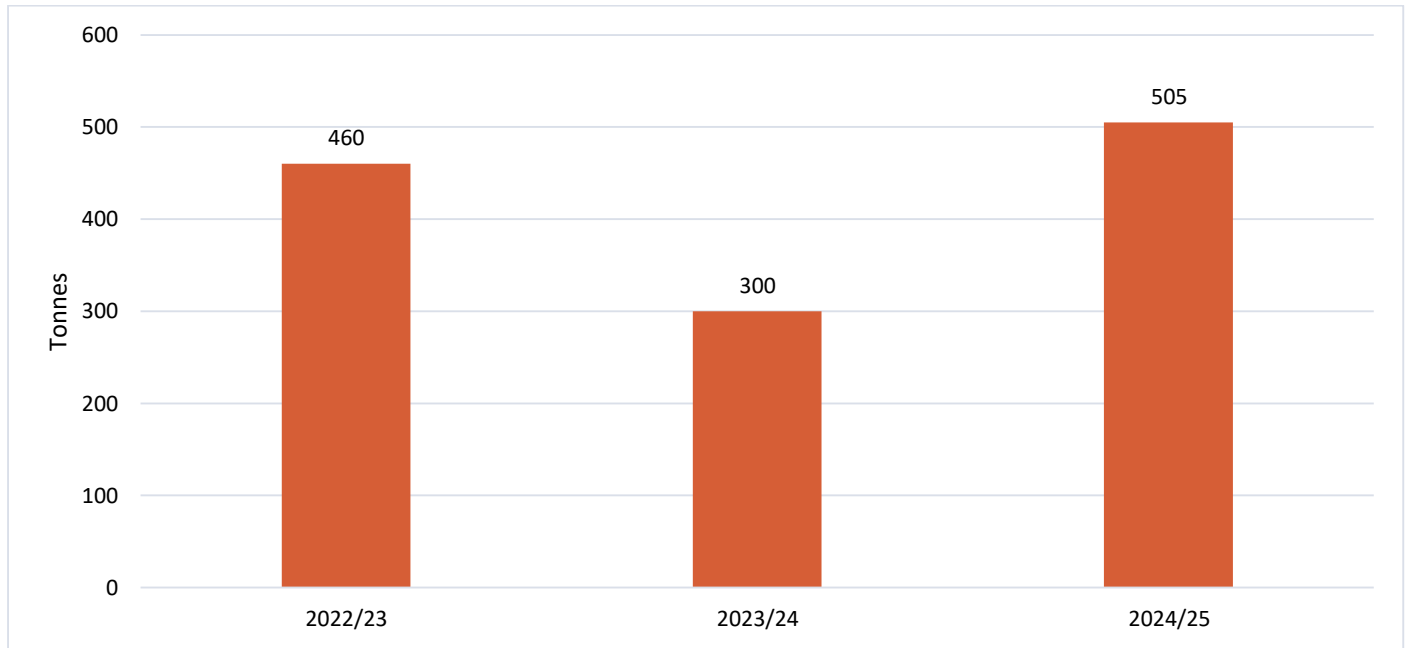


Figure 7: Silt collection (tonnes) from Council-managed wetlands in Banyule.



A first for Victoria – a Universal Pollutant Trap protecting Bailey’s billabong and the Birrarung

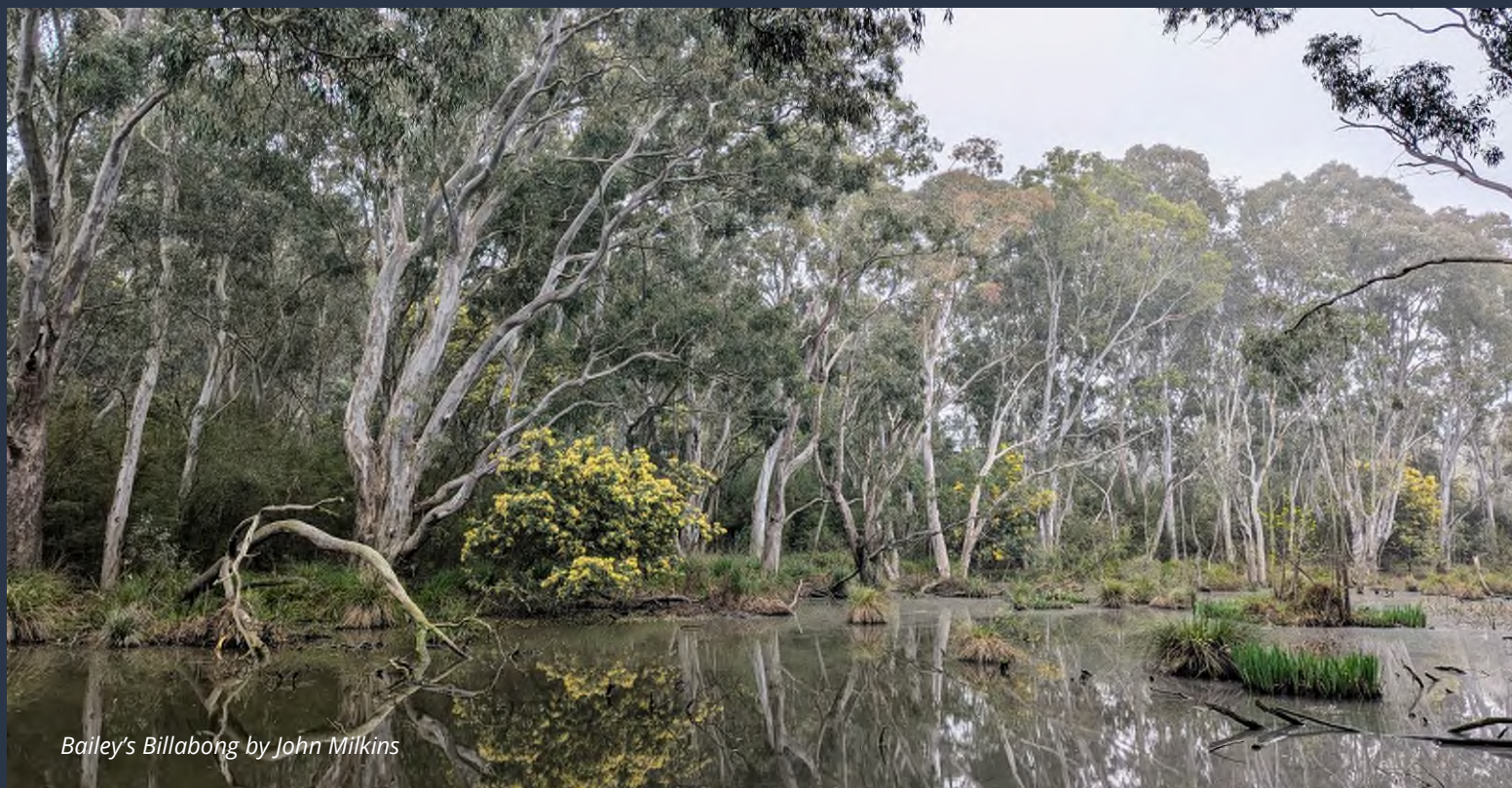
Banyule City Council has installed a new type of litter and sediment trap at the start of the historic Melbourne Water bluestone channel along Irvine Road, protecting the ecologically and culturally significant Bailey’s Billabong in Wilson Reserve (pictured), and the Birrarung (Yarra River).

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung have a deep and continuous connection to billabongs along the Birrarung and these works are part of Council’s commitment to Burndap Birrarung Burndap umarkoo (the Yarra Strategic Plan) and our own Water Plan. At Bailey’s Billabong in 1982, Heidelberg Historical Society and Warringal Conservation Society installed a plaque commemorating Christopher Bailey’s lifelong dedication to restoring the environment in the area during the 20th Century, efforts which continue today with many stakeholders.

The Holcim Universal Pollutant Trap 3000 (UTP) is the first of its type installed in Victoria. It removes litter, fine sediment and other stormwater pollutants from a catchment area of about 60 hectares, from The Cutting down to Irvine Road, Ivanhoe.



The trap was installed up to 8 meters underground on Banyule and Melbourne Water stormwater drainage systems. It has a litter screen, a basket containing granulated activated carbon, and 50mm pleated cartridge filter (pictured). Council will undertake maintenance quarterly, with a filter change expected approximately every two years. This innovative asset will allow the removal of many tonnes of litter and sediment annually, significantly lowering stormwater pollution impacts in Bailey’s billabong and the Birrarung. We’re now exploring sensors that can report when the trap needs to be serviced, optimizing our crew’s time and lowering transport greenhouse gas emissions for unneeded inspections.



Climate Change

Scientific research clearly indicates that recent changes to the Earth's climate are being driven primarily by human activity. Since the industrial era, the widespread use of fossil fuels has increased the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping more heat and altering global climate systems. These changes are contributing to a rise in average global temperatures and are increasing the likelihood of severe weather events, including prolonged heatwaves, bushfires, drought and intense rainfall.

As the impacts of climate change become more evident, many governments and institutions have formally acknowledged the scale and urgency of the challenge by declaring a 'Climate Emergency'. This declaration acknowledges the seriousness of climate change and the need for urgent, coordinated action across all levels of government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for ongoing and future climate impacts.

Banyule City Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, recognising the critical role Council and the community can play in reducing emissions and strengthening resilience to climate change impacts. Since then, climate emergency declarations have been made by more than 100 councils across Australia, representing more than 40 percent of the population.

Council's Corporate Emissions

In 2019, Council committed to cutting emissions from its own operations by adopting the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) which included a target to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2028, known as Target28.

Council's greenhouse gas emissions are measured across three categories:

- **Scope 1** – direct emissions from Council operations, including fuel use in vehicles and gas consumption for heating.
- **Scope 2** – indirect emissions generated from the purchase of electricity, generated from coal or fossil fuel sources.
- **Scope 3** – indirect emissions that occur across Council's supply chain, including those associated with the goods and services Council purchases.

Progress towards Target28 is monitored by tracking emissions across all three scopes, alongside efforts to reduce energy demand and increase renewable energy generation across Council sites. Initiatives such as solar PV installs help lower reliance on grid electricity and contribute to long-term emissions reductions.

Council Emissions Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total annual corporate GHG emissions (Scope 3)	1,989	2,020	2,322
Total annual corporate GHG emissions (Scope 1 & 2)	4,324	4,061	3,839
Total renewable energy capacity (MW)	1.7	1.8	1.8
Total gas consumption (GJ)	49,318	45,398	41,060
Total electricity consumption (MWh)	9,915	10,030	10,405
Total vehicle fuel consumption (L)	795,240	777,720	789,586*
Fleet vehicle conversion to electric (number of vehicles)	-	-	32*
Equipment conversion to electric (number of equipment)	-	-	35*

In 2024/25, Council continued to make progress in reducing operational emissions, with total Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions decreasing to 3,839 tCO₂-e for the year (Figure 8). This downward trend reflects the ongoing delivery of Council’s electrification program across facilities, including the replacement of gas-powered space heating, hot water and cooking equipment with efficient electric alternatives. Consistent with this transition, gas consumption declined by approximately 10% between 2023/24 and 2024/25 while electricity consumption increased modestly over the same period, reflecting the electrification of end uses previously supplied by gas.

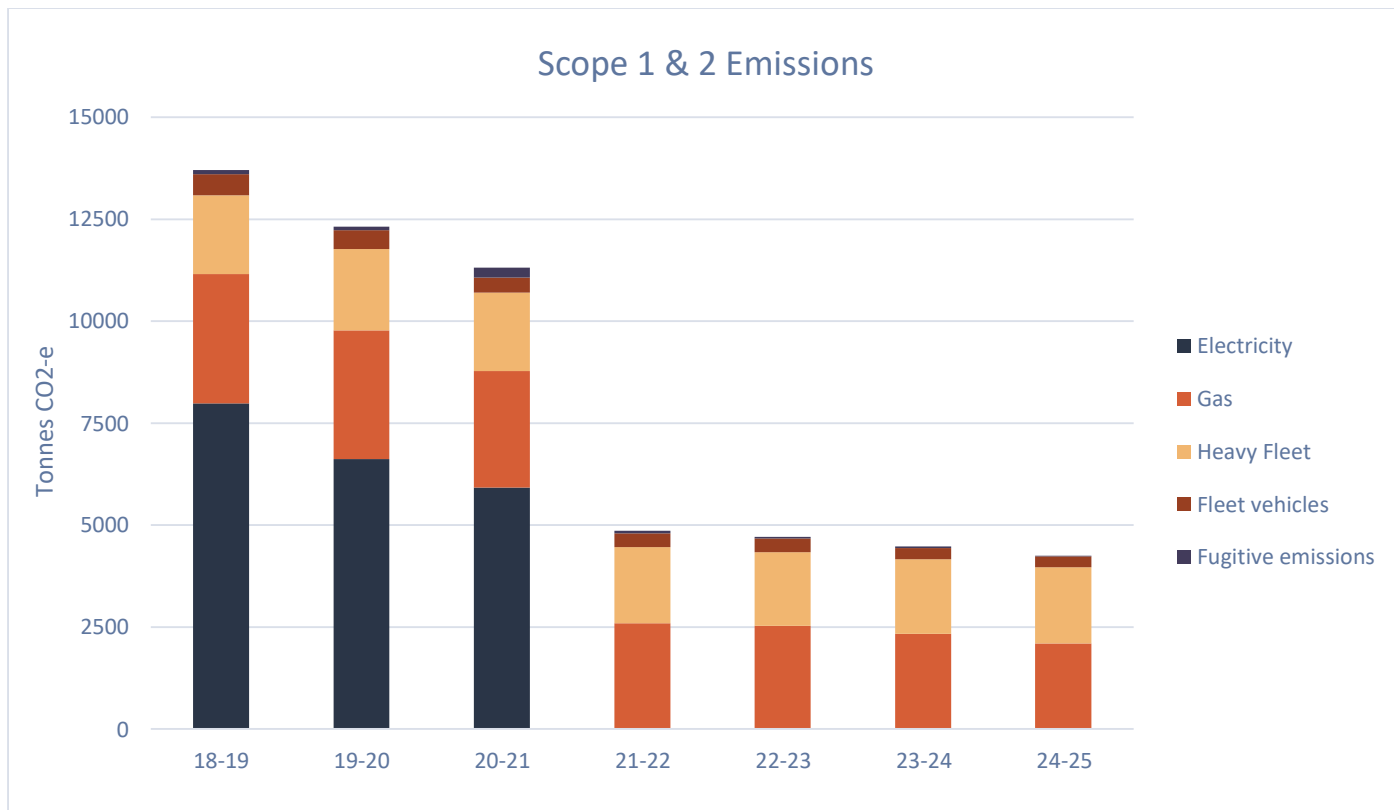


Figure 8: Council’s Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions. Electricity emissions have been negated since 2021/22 due to Council commencing the purchase of 100% green power.

Figure 9 shows emissions totals previously presented in Figure 8, with the addition of Council’s Scope 3 emissions. Total corporate Scope 3 emissions increased to 2,322 tCO₂-e in 2024/25, compared with 2,020 tCO₂-e in 2023/24. These emissions come from indirect sources across Council’s operations and supply chains and are explored in more detail in the following section.

Council’s total installed renewable energy capacity remained at 1.8 MW in 2024/25. The focus has now shifted to actively managing existing solar systems to ensure they continue to perform well and deliver emissions and cost savings. Fleet fuel consumption increased slightly in 2024/25 following a decrease in 2023/24, reflecting variations in service delivery demand and operational activity. Electrification of the light vehicle fleet has also contributed to reducing fleet-related emissions. At the end of the year, Council had 32 electric vehicles in its fleet, predominantly light fleet vehicles and plant where suitable replacements were available. A further new indicator being tracked is the number of tools and equipment that have been replaced with electric alternatives across Council’s Infrastructure, Operations, Bushland, and Parks & Natural Environment teams. Full transition to battery-powered tools, in line with Target 28, is being pursued progressively as fit-for-purpose replacements become available.

Council adopted a new Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) after the end of the 2024/25 financial year. Future State of the Environment reports will track progress against Target 28, as well as the newly introduced Target 35 for Scope 3 emissions.

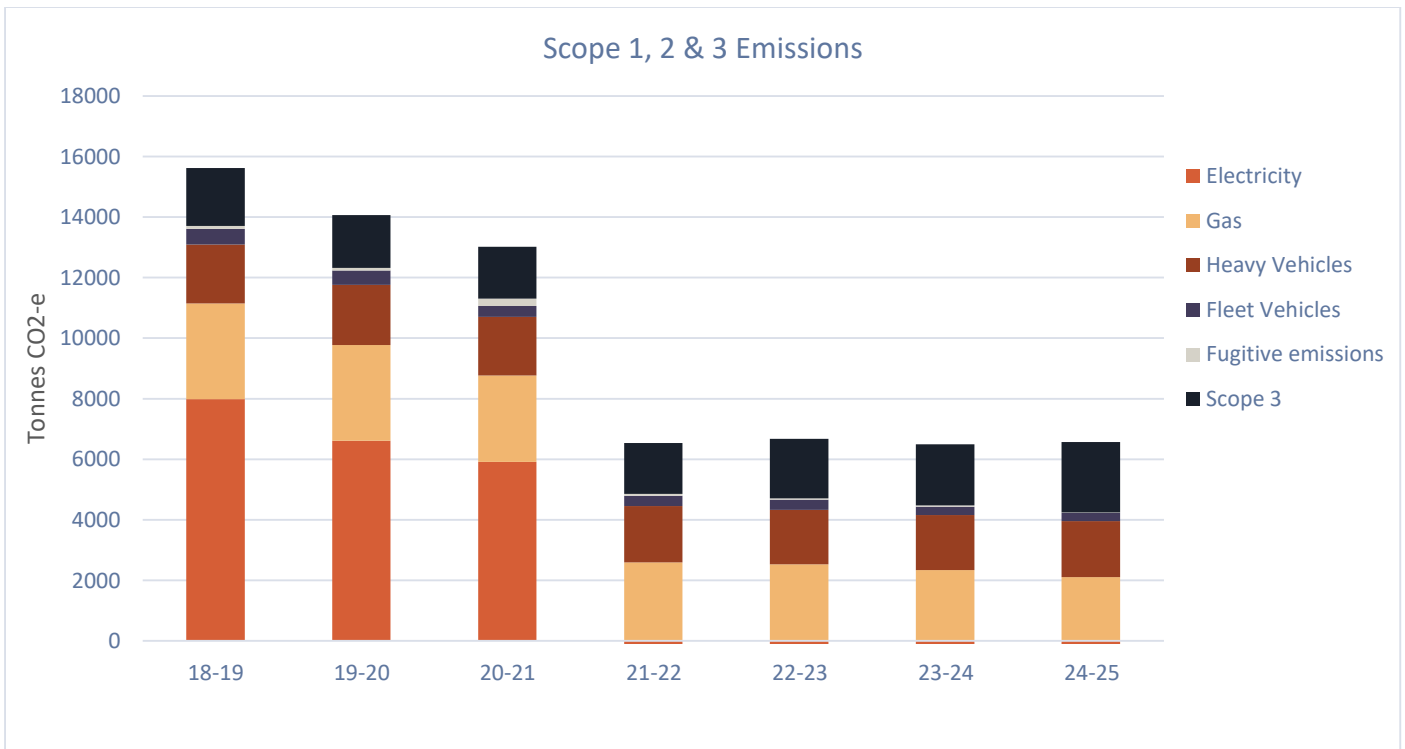


Figure 9: All of Council's emissions sources, including Scope 3 emissions. Electricity emissions have been negated since 2021/22 due to Council commencing the purchase of 100% green power.

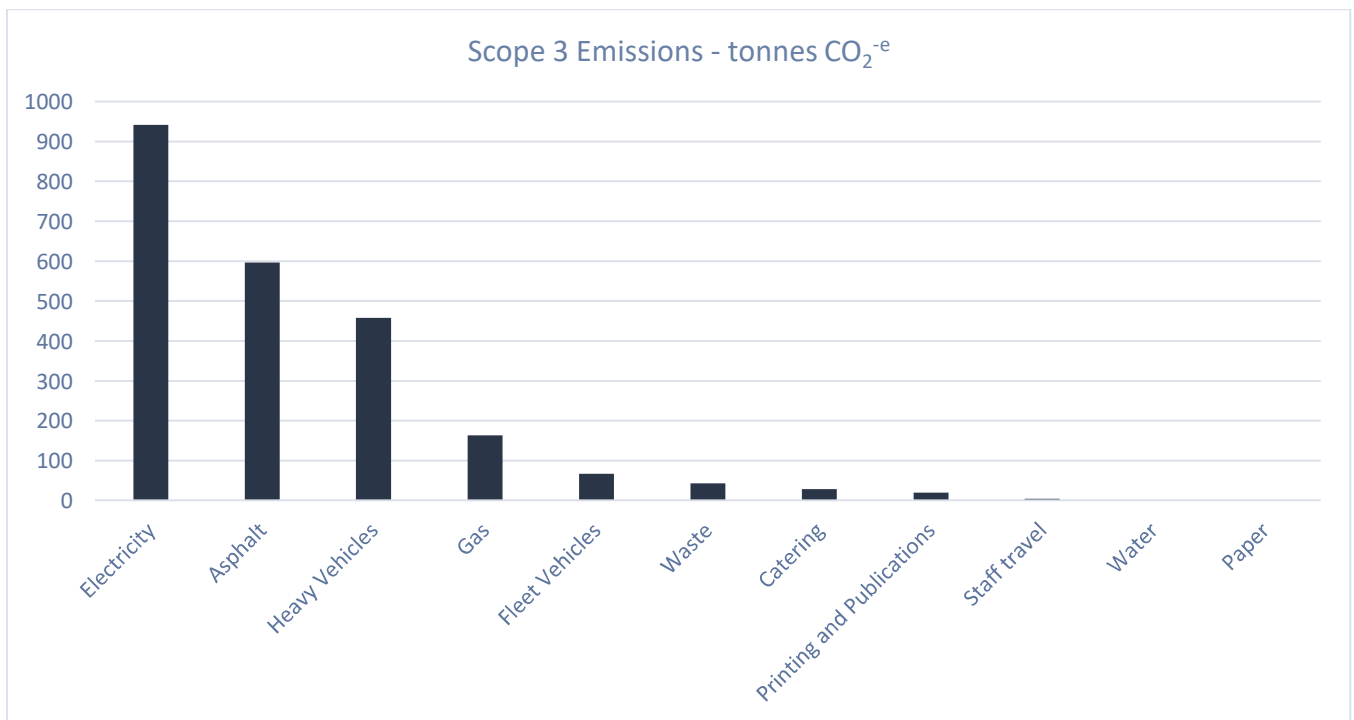


Figure 10: Council's Scope 3 emissions sources in 2024-25 in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).

FY25 Scope 3 emissions were driven primarily by electricity and asphalt, with heavy vehicle transport and gas also remaining material contributors (Figure 10). Electricity emissions increased reflecting the impact of the Scope 3 component (distribution and transmission losses) of electricity-related emissions. Asphalt emissions rose sharply compared to prior years, driven by a combination of higher quantities used and updates to emissions factors. Gas emissions reduced slightly, consistent with Council's progressive building electrification projects. Catering emissions dropped significantly, largely due to lower spend alongside emissions factor adjustments, and paper and water recorded zero emissions.

Case study: Electrifying Parks and Urban Forestry Equipment

Over the past three years, Council's Parks and Natural Environment teams have progressively transitioned from petrol-powered plant and equipment to battery electric alternatives. This transition supports Council's sustainability objectives by reducing operational emissions, improving workplace safety and minimising noise impacts on the community.

Electric line trimmers, hedge trimmers and push mowers are now used as part of day-to-day operations. The Urban Forestry team has been an early adopter, trialing battery-powered chainsaws and working closely with suppliers to provide feedback that has contributed to ongoing product improvements. Before commencing trials, staff participated in equipment demonstrations with multiple suppliers and sought feedback from other councils using similar tools to understand their performance, limitations and how to effectively use them.

Environmental and community benefits

A key benefit of the transition has been a noticeable reduction in machine noise. This has reduced noise disturbance for both Council staff and the community, particularly when works are undertaken near residential areas and shopping centres. Staff have received positive feedback from residents who value the quieter operation of electric tools. Reduced reliance on petrol-powered equipment also contributes to Council's broader emissions reduction targets and climate action commitments.

Health and safety improvements

Battery-powered tools have also delivered workplace health and safety benefits. Many electric tools are lighter than their petrol equivalents and are turned on with a push-button rather than a pull-start mechanism, reducing physical strain and the risk of injury.

A full transition is not yet possible for all equipment types, particularly where higher power outputs are required. As technology continues to advance, these limitations are expected to reduce. We will continue to explore opportunities as new electric equipment becomes available.



A community member tries out an electric tool at the Green Machine Zone during the Urban Forest Celebration at Warringal Park Oval in September 2025. The Parks Presentation team showcased a range of battery electric tools, including an electric mower, highlighting how Council is maintaining parks and open spaces in a more sustainable way.

Rosanna Library Redevelopment: A Case Study in Sustainable Building Design

In 2023–24, Council commenced delivery of a new, purpose-built Rosanna Library, a landmark community facility designed to provide a better service to the community while embedding sustainability and inclusivity at every stage. The three-storey, 1,600 m² building will more than double the size of the previous library and provide expanded children’s areas, co-working and study spaces, quiet reading zones, community meeting rooms, Maternal & Child Health services, and a toy library.

Sustainability principles were embedded early in the project through a comprehensive community engagement process. The community strongly supported a library that is modern, bright, sustainable and accessible. Feedback calling for increased greenery, improved pedestrian access, natural materials and high-quality outdoor spaces has directly informed the final design.

The redevelopment has been conceived as a fully electric facility targeting a 5-Star Green Star rating and powered in part by rooftop solar PV. By eliminating gas use and integrating onsite renewable energy generation, the building will operate with significantly lower greenhouse-gas emissions. This directly supports Council’s target to achieve zero-emissions facilities by 2028 and contributes to the longer-term goal of a carbon-neutral municipality by 2040. A high-performance building envelope featuring advanced insulation, high-quality glazing and passive solar orientation is designed to deliver up to 40% reduction in heating and cooling energy demand compared to standard buildings. Water efficiency measures include rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing and irrigation, combined with drought-tolerant native landscaping, which is expected to reduce potable water use by up to 40%.

The project’s landscape design and building layout place strong emphasis on health, comfort and connection to nature. Key features include elements that reduce urban heat, including vegetation, green roofs, light-coloured roofing and paving, water features, solar PV, and support for low-carbon travel such as EV charging bays, secure bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities.

The Rosanna Library redevelopment serves as a practical demonstration of sustainable design in action. By integrating energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation and climate-responsive landscape design, the project reinforces Council’s commitment to sustainability and demonstrates how community facilities can lead the transition to a more sustainable and resilient future.



Concept image showing the new Rosanna Library front entrance on Turnham Avenue

Banyule Community Emissions

Council isn't just focused on cutting its own emissions, we're also helping the entire Banyule community reduce emissions. We do this by sharing information, advocating for and facilitating opportunities, and supporting residents and businesses to make upgrades that save energy and emissions. To guide this work, we've created the Community Climate Action Plan, which aims for Banyule to be carbon neutral by 2040. Achieving this important target requires Council to work hand-in-hand with residents, local businesses, community groups and other stakeholders.

Municipal Emissions Indicators

Indicator	2019/20	2021/22	2023/24
Banyule total municipal emissions (tCO₂-e)[#]	866,000	831,000	806,200

[#]tCO₂-e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

Note: We report community emissions using data from the previous year. This is because it takes time to collect and check information from all the different sectors that make up Banyule. This means the total community emissions number in this SoE Report will be from 2023/24, rather than 2024/25.

Municipal emissions are reported on biennially in the SoE Report. Results for 2023-24 show that emission across Banyule were 806,200 tCO₂-e, continuing the steady decline in municipal emissions since 2018 (Figure 11). This equates to a 3% reduction in emissions since 2021-22 and is largely due to steady reductions in electricity and gas consumption by residents in their homes. These reductions are evident in Table 4 along with other minor shifts in emissions across several sectors, most notably the increase observed in the road transportation sector.

Since 2018 greenhouse gas emissions across Banyule have reduced by close to 10%, but we still have much work to do to reach our zero emissions by 2040 target.

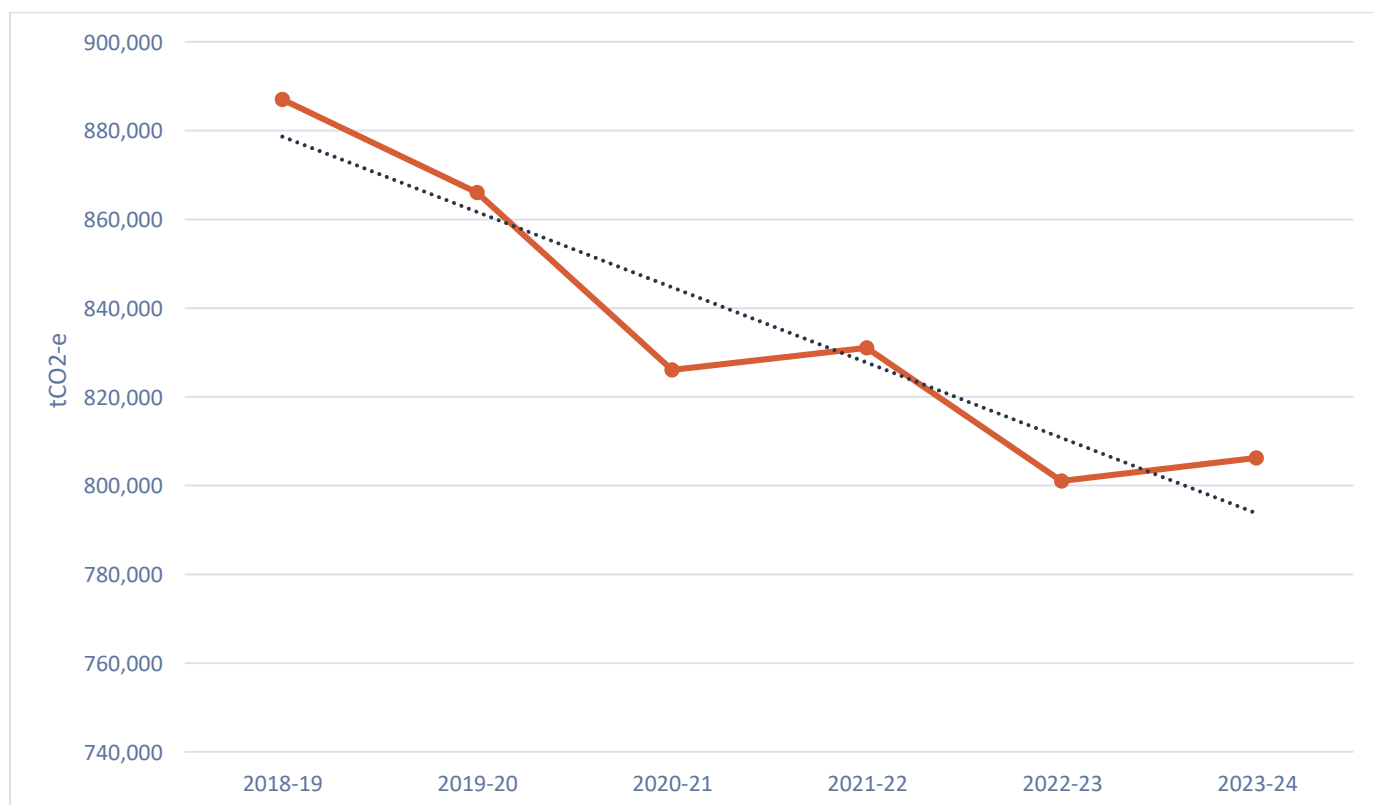


Figure 11: Total municipal emissions across Banyule each year since 2018-19. All figures are in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).

Table 4: Community emissions sources per sector in Banyule in 2019-20, 2021-22 and 2023-24. All figures are in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂-e).

Emissions Source	Sector	2019-20	2021-22	2023-24
Electricity	Residential	239,000	205,000	192,200
	Commercial	101,000	94,000	97,400
	Industrial	42,000	42,000	38,200
Gas	Residential	152,000	145,000	121,000
	Commercial	18,000	23,000	24,000
	Industrial	37,000	36,000	33,300
Transport	Road	176,000	184,000	195,000
	Rail	6,000	4,000	3,000
Waste	All	43,000	45,000	49,000
IPPU¹	Industry and Commercial	52,000	53,000	53,000

¹Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) – This category covers greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions occurring from industrial processes, the use of GHG in products and from non-energy uses of fossil fuel carbon. In Banyule, the majority of IPPU emissions are attributed to refrigerants in heating and cooling systems (79%) and industrial processes used in activities such as metal manufacturing (21%).

The 2023-24 data shows a drop in the percentage of community emissions made up of electricity and gas (Figure 12), primarily from residential neighbourhoods. These reductions mean that other emissions sources (transport, IPPU and waste) now make up a larger proportion of total community emissions. This effect is enhanced by increases in both road transport and waste emissions observed over the past two years.

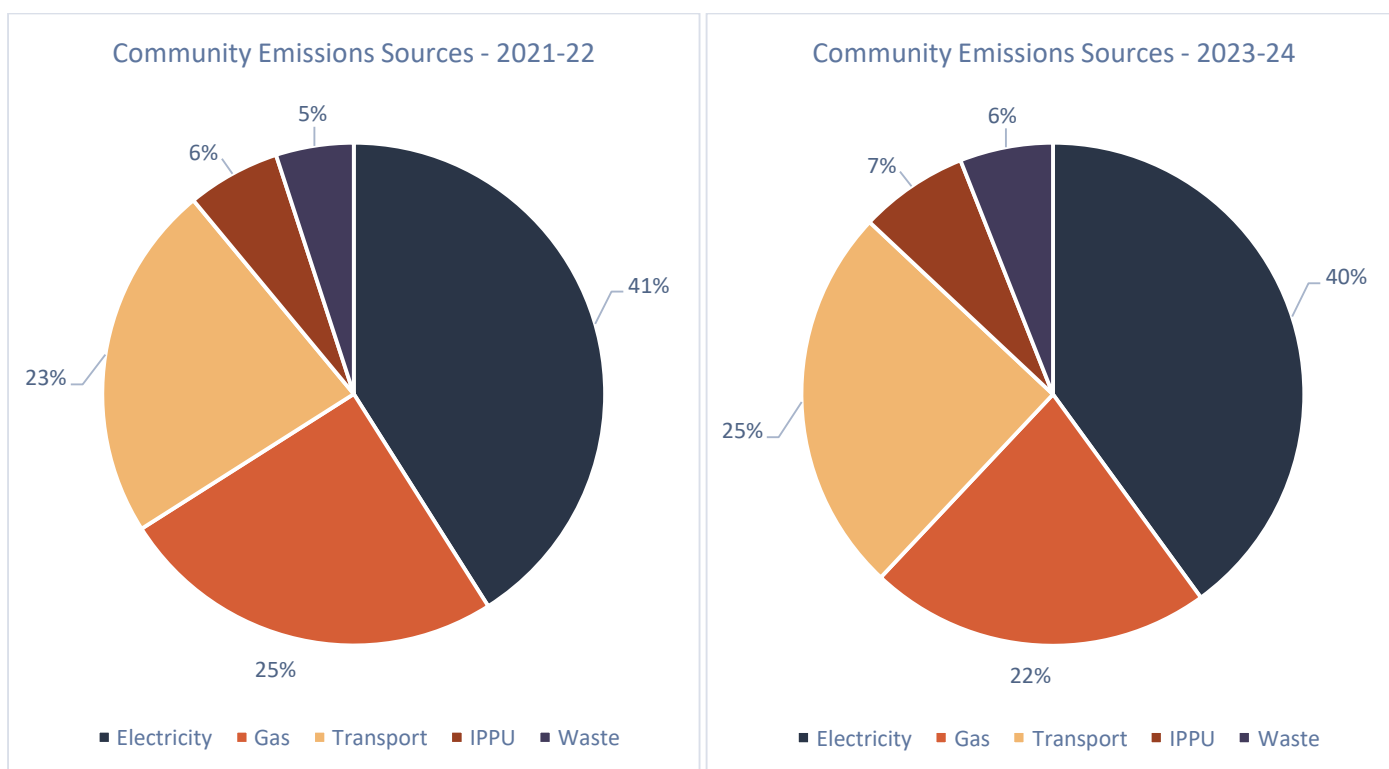


Figure 12: Banyule community emissions sources for 2021-22 and 2023-24. IPPU is 'Industrial Processes and Product Use'.

Some of the challenges we face as a community to achieving our municipal emissions goal include:

- **The speed of the transition of the grid**, to ensure renewable energy capacity can be accommodated.
- **Emerging technology trials to move away from gas, petrol and diesel** to power large vehicles, machinery and industrial processes.
- **Charging infrastructure and battery storage roll out**, to accommodate a transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and the use of locally generated renewable energy.
- **Biodiversity loss and adaptation**, ensuring we are protecting and enhancing our natural environment, so the community remains safe, healthy, and resilient to extreme weather and a changing climate.
- **Community engagement**, to ensure the transition is equitable and the community benefits from changes.

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total emissions saved per annum as a result of household sustainability upgrades undertaken with support from the Better Score program (tCO₂-e)[#]	-	133.5	100.7*
Number of electric vehicles registered in Banyule¹	715	1,307	1,943*
Community solar capacity² (MW)	-	-	55.92*

[#]tCO₂-e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

¹EV registration figures are sourced from the Department of Transport and Planning (Victoria) and are provided at postcode level. Some postcodes shown in the table include both Banyule and non-Banyule suburbs (e.g., Bundoora/Kingsbury in 3083; Eltham/Eltham North/Research in 3095), and in some cases only part of a postcode area falls within Banyule (e.g., 3085). To better represent Banyule-only registrations, an estimated “% applied for Banyule” has been applied to the postcode totals to produce the adjusted figures. These adjusted numbers are indicative only and should be treated as approximations rather than exact counts.

²Community solar installation data reported in this report is a point-in-time snapshot as of January 2026. This indicator is newly introduced and is therefore not reported on a 2024–25 financial year basis. From 2025–26 onwards, a snapshot will be captured and retained at the end of each financial year to enable consistent end-of-year reporting over time.

Household sustainability initiatives in Banyule are delivering measurable emissions reductions across multiple areas. Upgrades supported through the Better Score program have contributed to total annual emissions savings of 133.5 tCO₂-e in 2023/24 and 100.7 tCO₂-e in 2024/25, demonstrating the tangible impact of targeted support for household energy efficiency and sustainability improvements.

At the same time, EV registrations in Banyule have grown strongly, rising by approximately 172 per cent over the past three years. This outpaces the state overall, where registrations increased from 34,044 in FY23 to 81,612 in FY25 (a 140 per cent increase). Banyule’s share of Victoria’s total EV registrations has also risen steadily, from 2.10 per cent in FY23 to 2.32 per cent in FY24 and 2.38 per cent in FY25, highlighting the municipality’s growing contribution to statewide EV adoption. This trend reflects strong community interest in cleaner, low-emission transport and supports Council’s broader climate action objectives.

Community solar uptake in Banyule is also expanding, with approximately 11,480 installations as of January 2026, representing around 22.7 per cent of all dwellings. These systems provide a combined installed capacity of 55.92 MW, making a substantial contribution to local renewable electricity generation, household energy resilience, and reduced electricity costs.

Together, these initiatives illustrate a broad and growing commitment across the Banyule community to low-emission living and sustainable energy use. From energy efficiency upgrades to the adoption of electric vehicles and rooftop solar, local actions are collectively reducing emissions, strengthening energy resilience, and supporting Council’s long-term climate goals.

Council's Community Climate Action Programs

Better Score

Banyule's Better Score program helps households improve energy efficiency by offering a Home Energy Scorecard assessment. This assessment gives the home an energy rating and suggests upgrades to boost home performance, save on energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Households that choose to make these improvements can access subsidies through the program.

The 2024-25 program saw 61 households access a free Home Energy Assessment, with 49 of those (80%) going on to undertake the recommended upgrades through Council's subsidy. Householders are making an active effort to get off gas by installing more hot water heat pumps and induction cooktops compared to previous years. Several householders have also successfully disconnected their gas supply after fully electrifying their homes. Some have purchased EVs and charge it using their excess solar.

Household energy savings through the Better Score program have provided the following benefits per participant this year:

- Average greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 1.65 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per household
- Average annual financial saving of \$330
- Average uplift in household energy star rating by 0.6 (from 5.9 to 6.5).

Better Score Case Study – Jean Lin (Hellstern) from Heidelberg West

“When I saw the Better Score Programme being offered by Banyule Council, I applied, knowing it was a legitimate programme I could trust. I was curious to know how our home performed and what upgrades might help us perform better.

After the on-site assessment, it was really reassuring to discover that our home was quite efficient already. It was particularly useful to find out that further improvement opportunities weren't just about the big expensive things (eg: double glazed windows, induction cooking, water heat pump), but that there were also small and less costly improvements that we could easily make that would make a difference.

Based on the recommendations of the Scorecard Assessor, we decided to tackle two upgrades that needed an electrician, since we had some other work for an electrician as well. We changed our recessed lighting to sealed, LED units that are safe to insulate over, and we installed a DC fan in our stairwell to better circulate hot/cold air. We thought about using the money towards double glazing, but the electrical works ended up being a better match for us at the time.

The fan really does help circulate air and helps keep the whole house cooler, especially on some of the hot summer days we've had. Without the advice of the Assessor, we would never have installed the fan because it would never have occurred to us as something that would improve our comfort. The new lighting also looks great - and having the funding really helped us achieve both upgrades.

We definitely recommend Scorecard assessments and programs like the Banyule Better Score programme to others.”



Better Score Case Study – Katie Boon from Greensborough

“I applied for the Banyule Better Score Programme because I wanted to improve the energy efficiency of my home for environmental and financial reasons, but I did not have the expertise to make the decisions about what to do, or the finances to carry out the changes. I also wanted to get help navigating the various government rebates I knew were available but wasn’t sure how to go about accessing.

Participating in a programme run by Council gave me a sense of trust in the quality of the expert Scorecard Assessors they engaged and the advice I would receive. The most useful aspect of the program was gaining a clear understanding of my home’s initial energy performance and having the Assessor explain to me which practical recommendations would best suit my improvement goals and why. The Assessor was also able to explain which government rebates would be relevant to me and how to get them, which I would have found difficult to understand without expert advice. And of course, as a single income household, the financial assistance from Banyule made my improvements much more achievable.



I made significant changes as a result of the Programme. As well as installing solar panels, I also switched my appliances from gas to efficient electric alternatives and switched off my gas supply completely. I wanted to make these changes for environmental reasons, but my cost of living has also dramatically reduced. I’m now charging my EV entirely at home using my home generated solar electricity, which has drastically reduced my travel costs. Energy bills have also decreased noticeably and feel much more affordable.

Without the programme, I would have eventually moved away from gas entirely, but it would have been a much slower process because it was just not financially feasible without the support. I would absolutely recommend the Better Score Programme for anyone who is keen to lower their bills, improve their home efficiency and care for the environment. The expert advice was invaluable for making informed decisions, and the process was straightforward and well-supported.”

Climate Change Adaptation

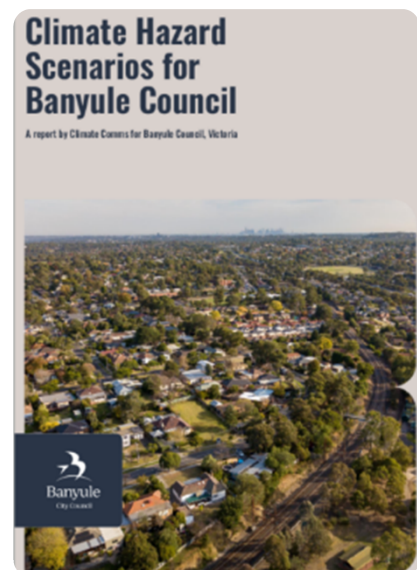
Creating Banyule's First Climate Adaptation Plan

Council continued work to draft its first Climate Adaptation Plan which will outline how Banyule can adjust to impacts of climate change, both as an organisation and a community. For the organisation, this looks like making sense of the risks to infrastructure from things like floods and extreme heat and related opportunities which help us protect the assets we have (for example, our parks, roads, and public buildings). For the community, we seek to understand the local risks and exposures residents may face (like surviving heatwaves in homes without adequate cooling) and to reflect on opportunities which help everyone be prepared for climate-related emergencies.

A Council plan of this size and detail requires much collaboration within Council and the community. The work to create the plan is happening in four stages with networking and planning being the focus of works from February to July 2025. The remaining work is continuing into mid-year 2026.

Achievements in financial year 24/25:

- Building on the initial community engagement findings of early 2024, Council updated the Shaping Banyule Engagement page and designed a community survey, map activity, and story portal.
- Planned in-depth co-design sessions with the general population to be held in the latter half of 2025.
- Acquired data on power outages and customer complaints related to extreme weather.
- Built relationships with our partners and service providers to connect with community members considered more at-risk of things like extreme heat or bushfires due to factors like economic disadvantage or working outdoors.
- Launched a project working group of Banyule staff from nearly every department to help us co-design the forthcoming Adaptation Plan. As many staff are also Banyule residents, their insights will additionally strengthen the plan and ensure it is fit for purpose, feasible, and well-considered.
- Produced the technical document, [Climate Hazard Scenarios for Banyule Council](#), which is an asset in our toolbox helping us think through various scenarios we should plan for.
- Worked with other local governments to develop best practices for evidence-informed adaptation.



Getting ready to launch 'The Adaptation Game: Banyule'

In 2025, we created Banyule's version of *The Adaptation Game*- a tabletop cooperative boardgame that helps communities connect and prepare for climate-related emergencies like heatwaves, fires, and floods. We held a Play-and-Plan session with community members and local members of the SES who helped us test the game



before printing. While the roll-out of the game was delayed to better coordinate with our Adaptation Plan, Council will be launching it by mid-2026. We are currently working with community partners to set up a network of game facilitators and locations.

If you love boardgames and community preparedness and want to get involved as a facilitator, please contact our Sustainable Environment team at environment@banyule.vic.gov.au.

Living Sustainably

Thinking about big global issues like climate change can feel overwhelming and even a bit scary. But the good news is that small, local actions really do make a difference. By learning more and building our skills, we can all take steps to live more sustainably and be part of the solution. Council has an important role to play by providing programs and workshops that make it easier for our community to take action and create positive change together.



Recipients of Council's Environment Grants Program, along with the recipients of Community and Arts and Culture grants and Councillors at the Grants Presentation evening.

Sustainable Living Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Number of participants in the Banyule Loves workshop series	-	-	162
Number of Environment Grants awarded	17	14	15

Note: Banyule Loves commenced in the second half of 2024-25 so data only represents six months of engagement with the community, and no data is available for past years.

Education, Capacity-Building and Engagement

Each year Council engages with the Banyule community through a range of programs and services. In 2024-25 engagement was undertaken through the new 'Banyule Loves' engagement series, community festivals, Teachers Environment Network, Spring Outdoors Festival, Environment Grants Program, Gardens for Wildlife and the Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC).

Banyule Loves Workshop Series

We launched the new 'Banyule Loves' workshop series in early 2025 focussed on the lost art of sustainable living, while building climate-resiliency and community connection. In 2024-25 six in-person or online events were held across autumn and winter and attended by 162 residents. Topics covered included First Nations Land Management, seed saving, connection to nature and mindfulness, no and low-cost home energy practices, and more.



"The workshop was well presented with a good level of detail and time for questions. Holding the workshop on zoom was convenient."

(Participant from Heat Pumps and Split Systems workshop)



The series is ongoing and highly rated, receiving an average of 9 out of 10 stars by those who have evaluated it. Feedback from the community and tracking of impact measures indicate the workshop series is a popular new initiative. The 2025-26 series is currently being planned and will launch in spring 2025.

"Seriously the best workshop I have attended...

I exchanged contact details with a participant new to Melbourne who wants to join some friend groups. Never done this before." (Participant from the Love of Nature Crafting and Meditation workshop)

Youth Summit

Council's 2024-25 Youth Summit again saw environmental sustainability as a key issue for Banyule's youth. Through round table discussions the following key environmental concerns were raised along with recommendations to address them locally:

- Encouraging young people to spend more time outdoors and connect with nature
- Protecting biodiversity
- Finding ways to transform climate change anxiety into meaningful action.

During the lunch break, Council's Environment Team hosted a creative activity where young people designed environment-themed second-hand t-shirts and learned about how to get involved in environmental initiatives across Banyule.

Environmental Grants

Council's Environment Grants Program provides funding to support community-led environmental projects that benefit the Banyule environment and community. The funded projects focus on protecting and enhancing the natural environment, promoting urban farming and community gardens, and empowering and educating the community to take meaningful actions for positive environmental outcomes.

During the 2024-25 period 19 applications were submitted for Environment Grants, with 15 projects successfully receiving a combined \$89,930 of funding.

Spring Outdoors

Each year, the Spring Outdoors program brings Banyule, Manningham and Nillumbik neighbouring communities together for three months of nature-based connection, learning and hands-on care. Running from September through November, the Festival has a diverse calendar – from cultural walks and reserve tours to citizen-science challenges and volunteer working-bees – consistently delivers strong environmental and community well-being and connections.



This year's program once again strengthened people's connection to local biodiversity and demonstrated how environmental engagement can be both enjoyable and transformative. By coming together to explore, learn and care for our natural places, the community not only supports its local ecosystems but also strengthens its own wellbeing. Each small act of stewardship contributes to a healthier environment – and a healthier, more connected community.

Banyule Environment & Climate Action Advisory Committee (BECAAC) re-appointed!

BECAAC is one of several committees formally established to provide advice to Council on a range of policies, programs and services. It is made up of volunteers from the community who have a professional or volunteer background in the environment sector. In 2024-25 a new BECAAC committee was established following a review of all Council Advisory Committees. The newly formed BECAAC welcomed back three past participants and nine new members, each with expertise in environmental sustainability to effectively inform and advise Council on strategic environmental programs and policies over the coming four years.

Sustainable Transport in Banyule

Transport accounts for approximately one quarter of Banyule's total greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of these emissions are generated by private vehicle use, which also consume space and produce far more emissions per person per kilometre than other ways of getting around (see Figure 13).

Increasing uptake of walking, cycling and public transport represents a key opportunity to reduce transport-related emissions while delivering co-benefits for health, accessibility and neighbourhood liveability. Council continues to support sustainable and active transport through strategic planning, infrastructure improvements and community programs, in alignment with the Council Plan and Banyule Community Vision 2041.

In 2024-25, Council progressed a range of actions to strengthen active and sustainable transport outcomes, including improving network connectivity, embedding safe and inclusive design principles in infrastructure planning, and supporting increased participation through education, promotions and events. Key achievements from this work are summarised below.

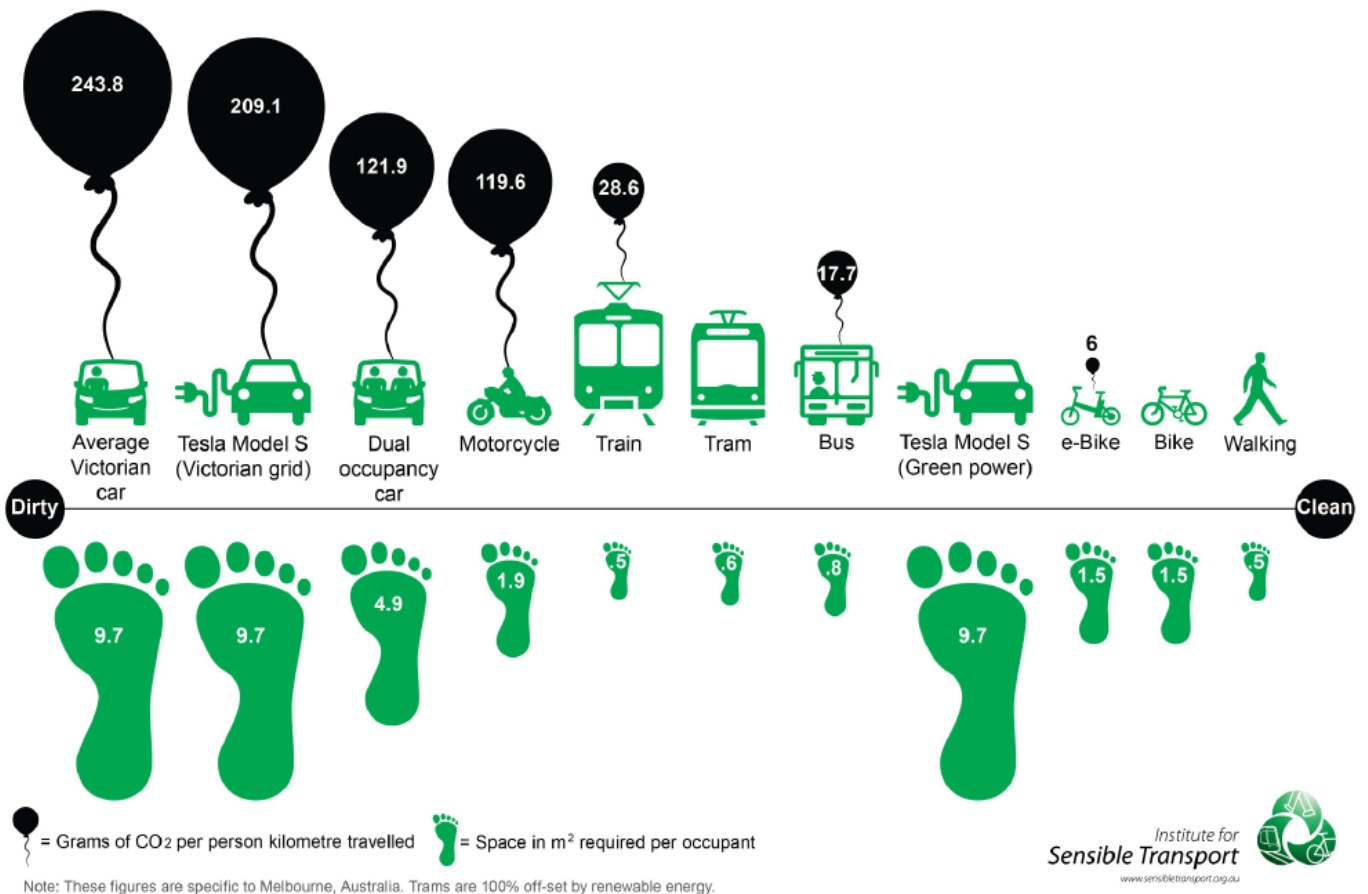


Figure 13: Understanding emissions and space consumption of transport modes

Banyule Bicycle Strategy

Council’s Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan 2022–27 provides a framework to improve the safety, convenience and accessibility of cycling for people of all ages and abilities. Cycling isn’t just great for the planet—it boosts mental and physical health, connects communities, and even supports local businesses.

During 2024–25, key activities included:

- Updating the Banyule TravelSmart Map to show on- and off-road cycling routes, on-road bike lanes, informal cycling routes, walking routes, public toilets, water fountains and public transport routes.
- Developing a Wayfinding Management Plan to support consistent signage design, clearer information and easier navigation across all transport modes.
- Engaging the community to identify locations where walking and cycling paths and routes can be improved.
- Auditing the provision of bicycle parking at Council offices, halls, libraries, sporting fields and pavilions.
- Delivering education programs, promotions and events that encourage cycling and active travel.

Bicycle Skills Sessions

Council delivered 30 subsidised bicycle skills sessions for the community, including

- One-on-one lessons for beginners (kids and adults)
- Small group classes to build confidence
- Bike maintenance workshops

Participant feedback indicated increased confidence and willingness to ride, demonstrating the value of skills-based programs in supporting active travel uptake.

'I enrolled my 10yr old son in the bike skills program and he had 2x sessions last school holidays. We had unsuccessfully tried teaching him to ride his bike throughout the since covid with no success. Within 25mins my son was riding unassisted with no fuss and no tears.

He thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and instructions on how to look after his bike and improve his technique. He had so much confidence afterwards and for the first time asked to practice his bike riding.

I wanted to share our experience as it has done wonders for my son and our family. This is a really wonderful program and service offered by Banyule council, and we are extremely grateful to have benefited from it.'

Lisa, Heidelberg

Biketober 2024

Workplaces within Banyule participated in Biketober 2024 and clocked up some impressive stats:

- 2,234 trips throughout October, with 62 per cent for transport purposes including commuting
- 35,070 kilometres ridden
- 2,421 kilograms of CO₂ emissions avoided

Activities included Ride2Work Day breakfasts, group rides and free bicycle maintenance sessions.



Banyule Community Health team celebrating Ride2Work Day

School Programs

Council continues to work with schools to encourage walking, cycling and scooting as everyday travel options.

Active to School

In partnership with Rosanna Primary School, Montmorency Primary School, St Francis Xavier Primary School and St Pius X Primary School, Council delivered a month-long program featuring activities, maps, footpath decals, incentives and pop-up information sessions.

Want to know more? Check out the information on our [Active to School](#) webpage or email us at activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au.

Safe Access Audits

We also funded audits for five schools to identify ways to make routes safer and more accessible:

- Briar Hill Primary School
- Greenhills Primary School
- Sherbourne Primary School
- St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary
- St Martin of Tours Primary School

These audits identify opportunities to improve route safety and accessibility, including vegetation management, footpath upgrades and new or improved crossings.

Shared user paths upgrades

In 2024–25, Council upgraded walking and cycling paths in Watsonia and improved safety for active transport as part of the Watsonia Town Square project. Key works included new pedestrian and bicycle-priority crossing points at Ladd Street, Kenmare Street and High Street along the East–West Power Easement Trail.

The shared path from Greensborough to Montmorency along the Hurstbridge Rail Corridor was also completed by the State Government as part of the rail duplication project. Council strongly advocated for this link and worked collaboratively to support its delivery.

Together, these improvements increase opportunities for safe walking and cycling to local destinations, including schools, shops and public transport connections.

Upgraded shared user path crossing at Kenmare Street in Watsonia



Councillor Curry with celebrating Active to School at Rosanna Primary School



Waste

Waste management is a crucial issue that affects us all, regardless of where we live or what we do. With the world's population growing rapidly and consumption increasing at an unprecedented rate, waste generation is also increasing at an alarming pace. The result is overflowing landfills, polluted rivers, and oceans, and a severe impact on our environment. These impacts have driven a shift in government policy toward achieving an 80% reduction in waste to landfill by 2030



Council's *Toward Zero Waste Management Plan 2024-2028* aims to inspire the community to work towards the long-term aspiration of zero waste to landfill through waste reduction, reuse and improved recycling behaviours.

Achieving zero waste to landfill will require strong collaboration between Council, the local community and other key stakeholders. It will require us to rethink our purchasing decisions and what we do with item that historically would have been discarded in a waste bin. It will also necessitate a shift toward a circular economy where products, materials and resources are kept in use for as long as possible through practices such as reusing, repairing and finally recycling.

Waste Indicators

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Landfill waste per household (kg)	329	340	331
Recyclables per household (kg)	200	219	210
Organic waste per household (kg)	315	350	331
Total waste diverted from landfill (%)	63	63	62

The 2024/25 year saw all waste indicators remain steady, with only minor change that would be considered within the normal range of annual fluctuation in Banyule. This continues the trend of stable waste habits across Banyule over the past three years since Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) was introduced (Figure 14). FOGO resulted in a noticeable reduction in landfill waste and increase in organics after 2021-22.

Total waste diverted from landfill also remained stable, though significantly higher than it was in 2021-22 before FOGO was introduced (Figure 15).

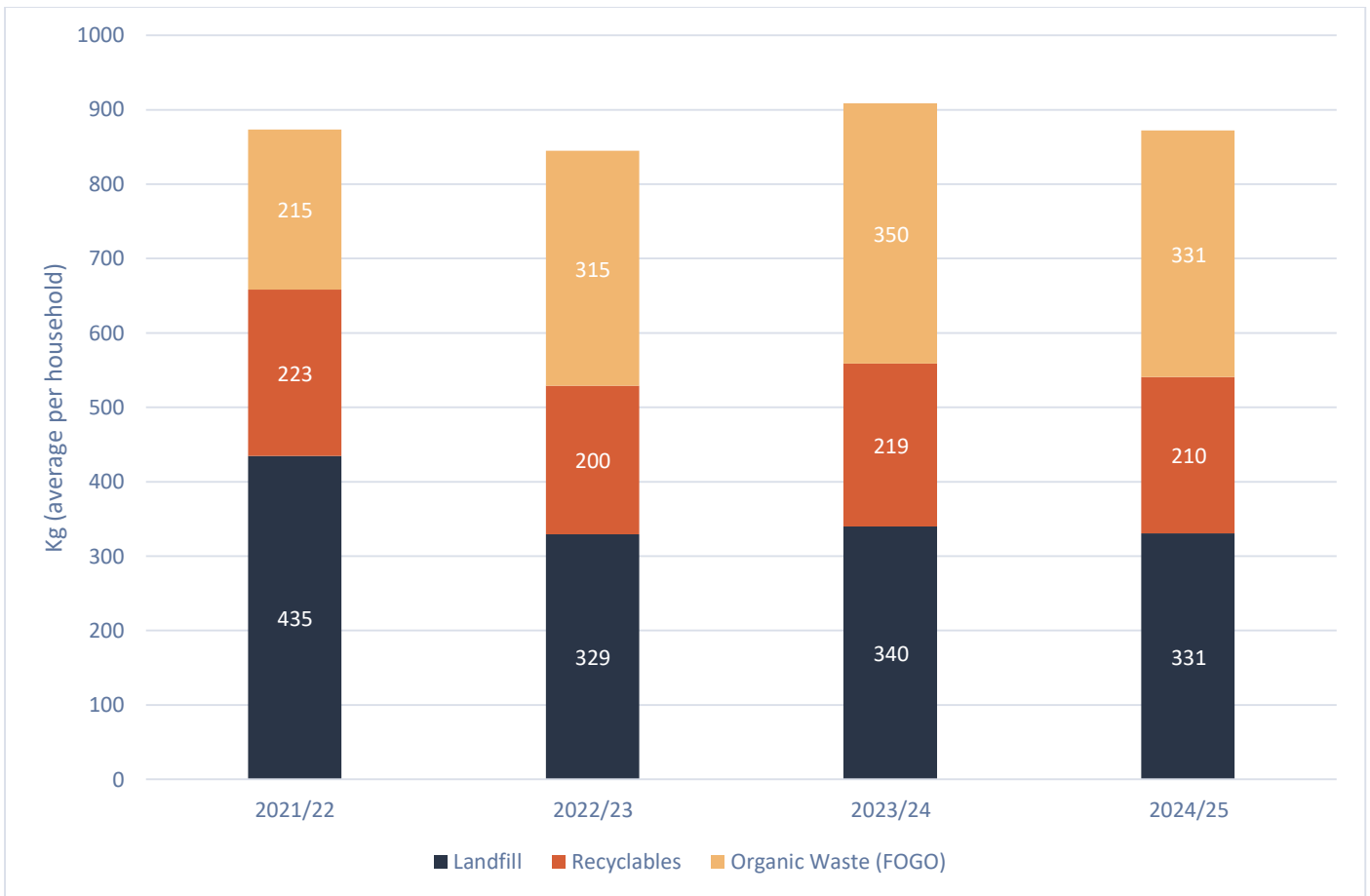


Figure 14: Average amount of rubbish, recyclables and organic waste collected per household in kilograms between 2021-22 and 2024-25.

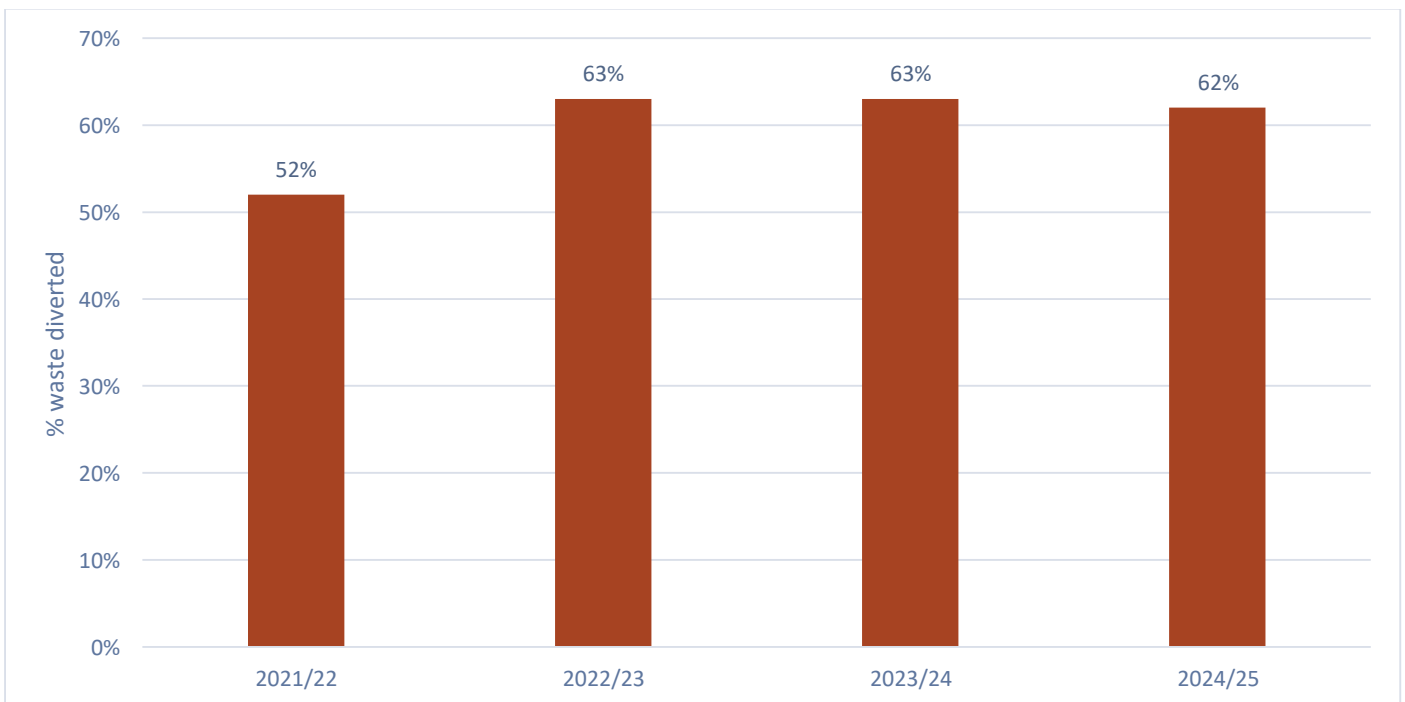


Figure 15: Total percentage of household waste diverted from landfill between 2021-22 and 2024-25.

Waste Education Programs

School Waste Incursions Program

Relaunching in late 2024, the Waste Incursions Program has been developed and facilitated by Council's Waste Education Team. The program encourages students to explore waste-related topics such as organic recycling (including worm farming and composting), the impact of litter on the local environment, waste and litter auditing, and the journey of waste beyond the bin. In 2024-25 the program reached over 660 students across seven schools.

Rethink Centre Reopening in 2026!

Council's Rethink Centre is set to re-open in 2026 after being closed for renovations. The hub will be back with fun, interactive programs about reducing waste, recycling right and living sustainably.

Primary students will enjoy engaging performances filled with theatrics, movement and hands-on learning. Plus, they will see behind-the-scenes of an operating recycling facility.



Urban Food

Melbourne has lost much of its productive farmland on the city's edge. If current trends continue, combined with population growth, our ability to produce food in the region could drop by more than 50% over the next 25 years, putting long-term food security at risk. These challenges will require action to build resilience in our food system, including exploring opportunities for local food production in Banyule.

Council has an important role to play in supporting our local food system, including enabling connections across the food sector, providing education, collaborating and partnering with local food organisations, offering incentives and advocating to state and federal governments. To establish a whole of community vision for urban food in Banyule Council adopted its first *Urban Food Strategy* (UFS) in 2023-24. The Strategy aims to create a shared understanding of urban food systems, food sustainability, food accessibility and food security across Council, local services, community organisations and residents.

Banyule's food system is a complex web of relationships that connect everything from soil microbes, plants and animals, to health, education and political systems, retail and digital food environments, everyday food practices and cultures of nourishment and celebration.

Urban Food Indicators

The UFS sets a number of objectives to drive progress toward a strong, healthy, sustainable and resilient urban food system. The four-year Action Plan tracks delivery of identified actions within Council as well as Council partners and stakeholders. An Urban Food Stakeholder (formerly Working) Group was initiated in 2023 through an Expression of Interest process ensuring community members, relevant service organisations and community gardens and working urban farms were included. The achievements of the action plan are reported back to the Stakeholder Group with an additional mid-term internal report scheduled. While broader outcome monitoring continues to be strengthened, Council can report on food relief provided by supported community organisations Diamond Valley Community Support, Diamond Valley Food Share and Banyule Support and Information Centre (BANSIC).

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Total items of food relief supported by Council	26,869	28,822	28,162*

In 2024-25, Council-supported partners provided a total of 28,162 food relief items, including 1,829 vouchers, 23,183 food parcels, 3,000 bread and bakery packs, and 150 breakfast packs for people experiencing homelessness. This represents the first year that a quantitative indicator has been reported for food relief activity, establishing a baseline for future monitoring. The figure highlights the scale of Council's contribution to supporting food security within the community, while broader engagement and participation in Council's urban food programs continues to be tracked.

Council's support for urban food extends beyond immediate relief, focusing on strengthening community capacity and resilience. In 2024-25, this included facilitating coordination among food relief agencies, providing guidance on best practice, and supporting the development of sustainable community food initiatives. These efforts aim to ensure that local food systems are inclusive, equitable, and able to respond to changing community needs, while also fostering connections between residents, local growers, and food enterprises.

The following page provides a snapshot of our progress in 2024-25.



Indicators at a glance

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Commentary
Biodiversity				
Indigenous Species planted in bushland reserves	8,398	8,289	8,864	Planting numbers remained steady in the year, with an increase in planting of tree species.
Friends of volunteer hours in bushland reserves	890	1,180	1,036	Community participation was steady over the period at Council-supported volunteer events.
Buy 1 Get 1 free indigenous plant voucher's redeemed	908	1,604	3,598	A significant increase in uptake of this program was experienced in the year.
Indigenous plants redeemed through Gardens for Wildlife #	535	528	436	Gardens for Wildlife participants continued to access indigenous plants to support their garden habitat enhancement projects.
Planning permit applications that included tree removal on private land #	-	441	548	An additional 107 permit applications including tree removal were submitted in 2024-25.
Applications where tree removal was approved #	-	289	333	A minor increase was observed in tree removal permits approved.
Applications where the tree removal was exempt from permit #	-	68	85	More tree removals were exempt from a permit, suggesting more applications were for weed or non-indigenous species removal.
Applications withdrawn due to tree removal not being supported by Council #	-	77 (including some refusal notices)	63 + 14 refusal notices	Applications withdrawn due to refusal remained steady in 2024-25, with several withdrawals enforced by Council.
Urban Forest				
30% canopy cover across all suburbs by 2050 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target #	-	-	28.9%	Our first canopy assessment shows cover is just shy of the target across Banyule, though some suburbs are still well under the target and require focus.
45% canopy cover across the footpath and local road network by 2040 with no loss in suburbs exceeding the target #	-	-	24.9%	Our first canopy cover assessment for roads and footpaths reveals that we are still well below the target and will require focus in the coming years.
50% Canopy cover across the open space shared path network and surrounding playgrounds by 2050 #	-	-	38.7%	Our initial open space canopy assessment reveals that we are tracking well toward the target, with a further 11% canopy cover required in the coming years.
Number of trees planted in streetscapes	1,627	1,498	1,579	Tree establishment has remained steady over the past three years, with a minor increase in 2024-25.
Number of trees planted in open space #	236	128	982	The significant increase in open space planting is due to additional tree funding through the Northeast Link Project (NELP).

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Commentary
Net gain of trees in open space and streetscapes #	1,024	877	1,588	The sharp rise in net gain reflects increased planting through NELP and steady tree planting and removals.
Number of trees removed in open space and streetscapes #	839	749	973	Tree removals have remained steady over the past three years, with a minor increase in 2024-25.
Number of trees in streetscapes across Banyule #	-	-	72,126	New streetscape tree mapping shows a healthy population across the city with a low vacancy rate of 8.4%.
Number of tree vacancies in streetscapes across Banyule #	-	10,000	6,092	An additional 4,000 vacancies were filled in 2024-25 bringing total vacancies down to 8.4%.
Water				
Banyule Council Water use (ML)	242	273	325	The 300 ML per year target was not achieved this year due to low average autumn rainfall, increased irrigation needs and reduced stormwater harvesting capability.
Litter collection (Tonne)	35	38	31	Slight reduction from last year was observed due to resource constraints and fleet availability.
Silt collection (Tonne)	460	300	505	Council continued to exceed the annual target of 130 tonnes, removing large volumes of silt from Southern Rd Wetland and Chelsworth Park stormwater harvesting system.
Climate Change				
Total Scope 3 annual corporate GHG emissions (tCO₂-e) *	1,989	2,020	2,322	Scope 3 emissions increased in 2024-25, reflecting improved data coverage and expanded reporting categories.
Total Scope 1 annual corporate GHG emissions (tCO₂-e) *	4,324	4,061	3,839	Scope 1 emissions continued to decline, driven primarily by reduced gas use and light fleet transition.
Total renewable energy capacity (MW)	1.7	1.8	1.8	Renewable energy capacity remained stable as focus shifts to management of existing solar systems.
Total gas consumption (GJ) #	49,318	45,398	41,060	Gas consumption continued to decrease due to ongoing electrification programs and energy efficiency improvements.
Total electricity consumption (MWh) #	9,915	10,030	10,405	Electricity consumption increased slightly, partly due to electrification of assets and facilities.
Total vehicle fuel consumption (L) #	795,240	777,720	789,586	Fuel consumption remained relatively stable, with minor year-to-year variation.
Fleet vehicle conversion to electric (no. of vehicles) #	-	-	32	As of 24/25, Council has 32 electric vehicles in its fleet.
Equipment conversion to electric (no. of equipment) #	-	-	35	As of 24/25, Council has replaced 35 pieces of equipment and tools that were previously fossil fuel powered with electric alternatives
Banyule total municipal emissions (tCO₂-e) *	831,000 (2021-22)	806,200	N/A	Municipal emissions have declined since 2022 though remained stable over the past 12 months. <i>Note: data is from 2023-24 due to a 1.5-year data lag.</i>

Indicator	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Commentary
Emissions saved p/a as a result of household upgrades through the Better Score program (tCO₂-e) *	-	133.5	100.7	A total saving of 100 tCO ₂ -e p/a is a strong result, though down from the previous year despite participation being higher. This is due to the type of upgrades residents selected being less impactful on emissions overall.
Number of electric vehicles registered in Banyule #	715	1,307	1,943	EV registrations continued to increase strongly, indicating growing community uptake.
Community solar capacity (MW) #	-	-	55.92	The municipality's solar capacity stands at 55.92 MW spread across nearly 25% of all households.
Living Sustainably				
Number of Banyule Loves workshop participants #	-	-	162	The program commenced in late 2024-25 so data represents only six months of engagement.
Environment Grant applications awarded	17	14	15	15 worthy environmental projects were awarded grant funding this year.
Waste				
Landfill waste per household (kg)	329	340	331	Landfill waste remained steady this year, with a minor reduction.
Recyclables per household (kg)	200	219	210	Recyclables per household has remained steady.
Organic waste per household (kg)	315	350	331	Organic waste per household has remained steady.
Diverted from landfill – total (%)	63	63	62	Percentage diverted to landfill remains steady.
Urban Food				
Total items of food relief supported by Council #	26,869	28,822	28,162	Council continued to support a significant amount of food relief in the community in 2024-25.

* (tCO₂-e) = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent

- denotes years where data is insufficient or the indicator did not exist yet

denotes new indicators introduced to the SoE Report in 2024-25

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

- Call us on [9490 4222](tel:94904222)
- Main fax line: [9499 9475](tel:94999475)
- Online enquiries: enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au
- Post can be sent to PO Box 94, Greensborough VIC 3088

If your hearing or speech is impaired, you can call us through the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY) or 1300 555 727 (ordinary handset) and ask for 9490 4222.

Service centre locations and hours:

- [Greensborough: 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough, 3088](#)
Open from 8:30am to 5pm. E-waste recycling drop-off (for small items only) on Level G in foyer. This is our main service centre and office building. Make payments and lodge requests in person, and discuss planning, building or other matters here.
- [Ivanhoe: Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, 3079](#)
Open from 9:00am to 5pm. The centre is inside the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub. Make payments and lodge requests in person. To discuss planning, building or other matters, visit us in Greensborough.

Interpreter service:

- If you need an interpreter call TIS National on [131 450](tel:131450) and ask to be connected to us on [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- (الوطنية على TIS إذا كنت ترغب في المزيد من المعلومات وبحاجة إلى مساعدة مترجم، يرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الكتابية والشفهية) الرقم 131450 وأطلب أن يتم إصالك بمجلس بلدية بانويل على [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- 如果你需要一名翻译，请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处 (TIS National) [131 450](tel:131450)，再转接到Banyule市政府[9490 4222](tel:94904222)
- 若你需要口譯員，請致電131 450聯絡TIS National，要求他們為你致電 [9490 4222](tel:94904222)接通Banyule市政廳。
- Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj [131 450](tel:131450) i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećim općine Banyule na broj [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero [131 450](tel:131450) e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Banyule al numero [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό [131 450](tel:131450) και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS NATIONAL на [131 450](tel:131450) и замовете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS [131 450](tel:131450) weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: [9490 4222](tel:94904222).
- Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số [131 450](tel:131450) rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số [9490 4222](tel:94904222) giúp quý vị.

