

Cool Changes: Gisborne

Community Climate Action Plan





Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, as the caretakers and custodians of the lands currently known as Gisborne.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung continue to practice their culture and customs and experience a close spiritual, physical, social, historical and economic relationship with the land and waters that make up country.

They have lived on country for thousands of years in a way that was sustainable and which preserved the wildlife, habitat, land and waterways of country.

Council context

Cool Changes is a Macedon Ranges Shire Council (MRSC) program that works with local communities across the shire to facilitate the development of local climate change action plans.

Cool Changes commenced in 2019 with a pilot project: Sustainable Malmsbury and has since gone on to help create community-led, place-based climate action plans in Woodend, Romsey & Lancefield and Riddells Creek.

Understanding the vital role communities play in helping everyone adapt and mitigate climate change, the actions identified throughout the program will be used to influence the upcoming shire-wide Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Date published: TBC





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Our Plan

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council officially released a Declaration of Climate Emergency in March 2021, with this declaration the community of Gisborne understand the urgency that goes hand in hand with an emergency. With various Landcare & Friends groups, community groups and strong local businesses there is great opportunity to create collective, impactful climate action that is able to move with the urgency needed during an emergency.

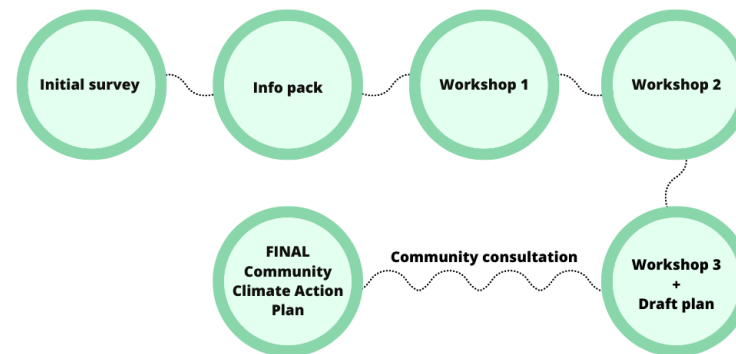
This plan aims to create a collective vision for climate action into the future and provide new, passionate residents a document in which to refer to when eager to continue the care and connection to Gisborne shown by many in years past.

This plan also assists to identify gaps in local action and infrastructure and help to contribute to social cohesion in the town. Throughout this process, participants often spoke of the Gisborne 'identity' and if a Community Climate Action Plan could help shape this identity.

How the plan was developed

The following plan was developed using multiple engagement and collaboration methods. Starting with a town-wide survey, consultation with local environmental groups and then three sequential workshops. Throughout these three workshops, community members explored localised impacts of climate change and local actions that addressed both

impacts and township vulnerabilities (see Appendix 3). Also eager to recognise the hard-work that has been happening in Gisborne for many years, township assets were also identified throughout the process (see Appendix 4). These workshops continued to build the momentum with each week and ignited great discussion and passion amongst everyone involved.



To assist with dealing with the complexity of climate change, impacts, vulnerabilities and assets were grouped into themes. These themes were then used to allow people to contribute to areas of passion and expertise.

The group were able to unanimously decide that goals were needed before actions were explored and, as such, three goals formed against the triple bottom line framework; 'social', 'environment' and 'economic' (see page 6).

Once goals were finalised, an initial list of 41 actions were identified by the community as possible local climate actions that could happen within Gisborne. From this list, the group then identified 7 priority actions to implement (see Appendix 2 for full list).



How to get involved

Community climate action can be performed by anyone! You do not need to be an expert, just some eagerness to participate and join the journey.

This Plan has been created by the community and will rely on the community to implement it. Through collaboration with one another, local businesses and industry as well as local Council, each action identified is well within reach of being achieved.

When developing the actions we tried to assign action 'leaders' to help drive the action forward. If an action has a leader, you are free to contact them directly. If an action doesn't have a leader or appears in the future actions list and you're interested in learning more please reach out. Feel free to contact Justin Walsh (Sustainability Officer at Macedon Range Shire Council, juwalsh@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

Also, remember that this Plan captures the community's thinking at a point in time and that community goals, actions and ideas will naturally evolve over time. If you have other ideas for projects and the willingness to kick-start them, we encourage you to do so.

Together, we can continue to care for people and climate into the future!

How is this plan going to be implemented?

The exact method of implementing is yet to be confirmed. Once this Plan is reviewed for the Gisborne community, participants will come back together to discuss the best method of keeping this Plan on track. Options that have been put forward to the group are:

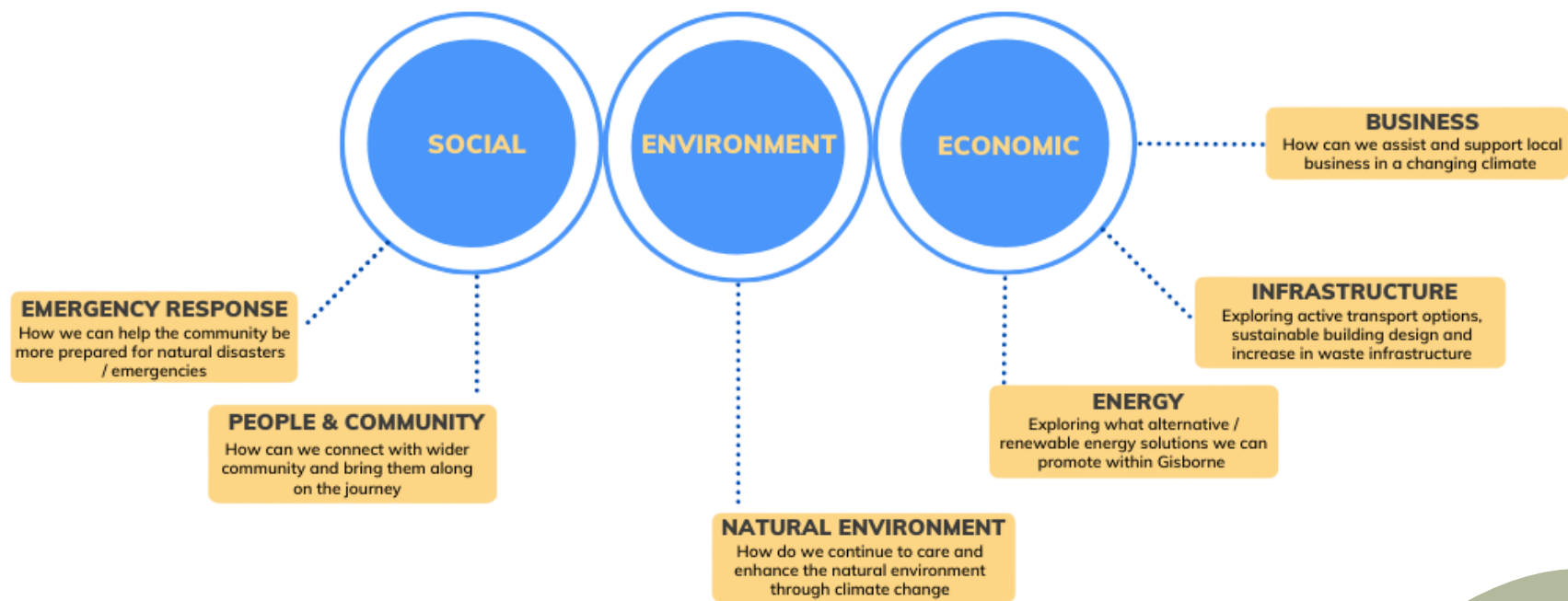
1. Decentralised model: No overarching coordination of the Plan. Essentially the delivery of the Plan will focus on each Lead managing their actions. People will continue to collaborate through information communication channels and quarterly meetings.
2. Join the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSRG): Gisborne to join the MRSRG as a locality-based action group, similar to Sustainable Malmsbury
3. New place-based environmental group: Create an entirely new group with a centralised 'steering' committee.



Our approach & themes

Climate change is a complex issue and the Gisborne community clearly understand its inter-disciplinary complexities. Through the mapping of local impacts, township vulnerabilities and assets, the group were able to identify themes in which to use as a focus tool.

The group also opted to create guiding goals for the plan. These goals worked well to offer a criterion for actions to be included in the current plan.





Our goals



SOCIAL

A connected and environmentally minded community that is climate emergency ready.



ENVIRONMENT

Influence Council to lead by example in assisting environmental change and provide a legacy of climate sensible streetscape.

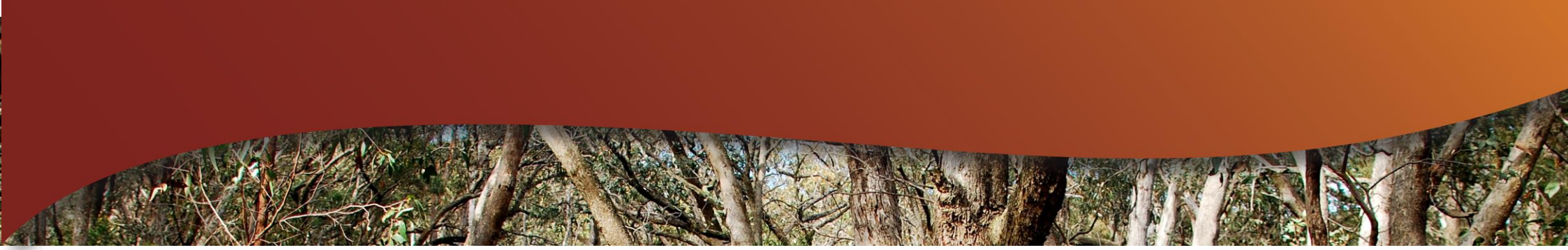


ECONOMIC

To have Gisborne homes, businesses and public building be fully powered by renewable energy, with ambitions for Gisborne to have net zero emissions on electricity usage by 2030.

Our actions

ACTION	RATIONALE	SKILLS NEEDED	WHO CAN HELP?	CONTACTS
<p>“BUY/SHOP LOCAL” CAMPAIGN</p> <p>SUPPORTING, INFLUENCING AND DEVELOPING LOCAL BUSINESSES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grows our local economy - Attract further quality businesses in to the area - Reduce transport needs - Potential to introduce local circular economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community engagement - Marketing - Negotiation - Advertising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business organisations (Rotary, Lions) - Gisborne Gazette - Local clubs (incl. sporting clubs) - MRSC - Neighbourhood House* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt Griffin - Stephen Pepper - Rob Gunston
<p>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</p> <p>EDUCATION AND INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY TO APPRECIATE THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA (EG. A ‘GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE’ PROGRAM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect biodiversity and enhance local carbon sequestration - Raise awareness and interest in protecting our natural environment as a climate mitigation tool - Provides opportunity to include primary & secondary schools, churches, garden clubs, sporting groups, local business in climate conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Networking - Ecology & conservation knowledge - Experience in hands-on conservation projects - Education & engagement experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landcare & Friends groups - Wurundjeri Woiwurrung partnership - Jackson’s Creek EcoNetwork - Churches - Fed. Of Environment & Horticulture for Macedon Range (FEHMR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helen Radnedge - Kerrie Birch



ACTION	RATIONALE	SKILLS NEEDED	WHO CAN HELP?	CONTACTS
<p>COMMUNITY RENEWABLES TRANSITION</p> <p>INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AT A HOUSEHOLD LEVEL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote the transition to household PV solar, batteries, electrification of the home - Helping community to decrease reliance on fossil fuel generated electricity - Feeds into economic goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letter writing - Networking - Community organising - Patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Central Goldfields Greenhouse Alliance (MASH project) - Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group - Neighbourhood House* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephen Pepper
<p>ESTABLISH AN ADVOCACY COLLECTIVE</p> <p>IMPROVE THE INTERCONNECTION & COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COMMUNITY GROUPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the community voice on biodiversity protection & climate action - Influence change in Council policy & practice - Build solid foundations for better cooperation on shared goals - Historic practices don't take into account the inter-connectedness of climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listening - Willingness to co-operate/change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other community group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paul Gilberton - Kerrie Birch





ACTION	RATIONALE	SKILLS NEEDED	WHO CAN HELP?	CONTACTS
<p>ESTABLISH A GISBORNE COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p>DETERMINE THE BUSINESS MODEL FOR A NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE (NHH) THAT ASSISTS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required as a key component in achieving further community climate action. - Broadening current NHH scope to include climate action support will help with gaining funding (from Council and other sources) in the future. - Provide physical location for township sustainability initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research - Fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider community - Neighbouring NHH Co-ordinators - MRSC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kitty Humpheries - Louise Minty
<p>EDUCATIONAL ECO-BUILD DEMONSTRATION HOME</p> <p>CREATE COMMUNITY HUB FROM A RETROFITTED CLASSROOM FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING EDUCATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide an educational space for residents that offers alternative living options (energy efficiency, renewable energy, off-grid living) - Helps residents cut GHG emission in the home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise and communicate with Council - Networking - Community organising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fleetwood (classroom storage company) - MRSC - Surrounding NHH co-ordinators / organisers 	
<p>PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ENERGY MONITORING PLATFORM</p> <p>LIVE FEED & HISTORICAL DATA ON ENERGY USE ON COUNCIL OWNED & OPERATED ASSETS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist Council to establish open energy reporting on Council owned & operated assets. - Promote results - To publicly verify Council objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise and communicate with Council - Web developer - Electricians & gas fitter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group - Other local Council (Moreland & Moonee Valley) 	



Appendix 1 (context)

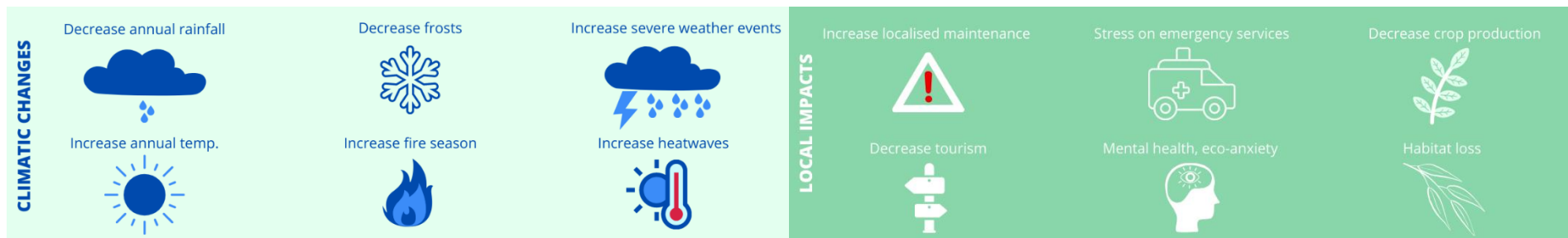


FIGURE 1: CLIMATIC CHANGES AND THE LIKELY LOCAL IMPACTS. SOURCE: DWELP, LODDON MALLEE REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION SNAPSHOT.

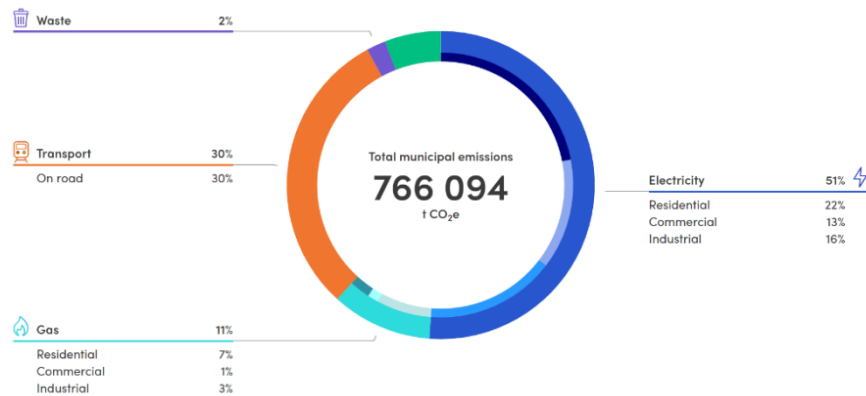


FIGURE 2: OUTLINE OF SHIRE-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The impact of climate change within the shire is likely to follow the patterns forecast for other parts of the Loddon Campaspe region and Victoria more broadly.

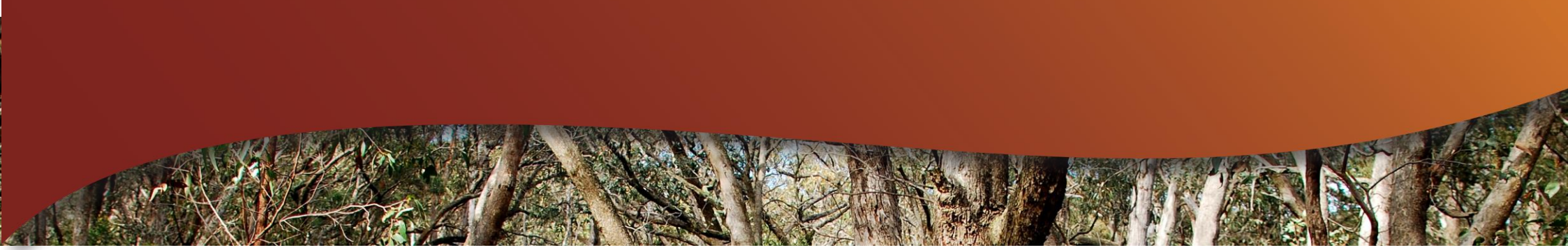
Within the shire, **species adapted to the cooler** temperatures of higher elevations are likely to be most vulnerable, such as Snow Gums and the wet forests of Mount Macedon.

Farmers within the shire will need to adapt to the drier conditions, Council operations will need to respond to **more frequent storm events**, fires and hot days which impact outdoor work, while the community more broadly will need to build resilience to more **heat waves and increased emergencies**.

Appendix 2 (future actions)

If you would like to become to 'lead' on any of the actions below and get the ball rolling, please contact Macedon Ranges Shire Council (Justin Walsh, juwalsh@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

ACTION	ASSOCIATED GOAL/S
PLANT LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS (ON BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY)	 
CREATE PROGRAM THAT ASSISTS HOMEOWNERS TO ASSIST WITH CARE AND PROTECTION OF STREET TREES	 
COMMUNITY SEED BANK	 
"SAVE THE BEES: PLANT FOR ALL SEASONS" BOOKLET / GUIDE	
"EMAIL A TREE" INITIATIVE	 
COMMUNITY "ADOPT A WATERWAY" INITIATIVE (COLLABORATE W/ MELBOURNE WATER)	 
LOCAL SENSORY GARDEN	 



ACTION

ASSOCIATED GOAL/S

SUPPORT A TRANSITION TOWN: GISBORNE



STREET TREE CARERS NETWORK



CREATE WEED REMOVAL PROGRAM ALONGSIDE COUNCIL



CREATE STREET TREE REPLACEMENT STRATEGY ALONGSIDE COUNCIL



COMMUNITY-LED EDUCATION SESSIONS WITH COUNCIL (ON HORTICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES & INDIGENOUS FLORA & FAUNA)



LOYALTY POINTS CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL TRADERS & CUSTOMERS

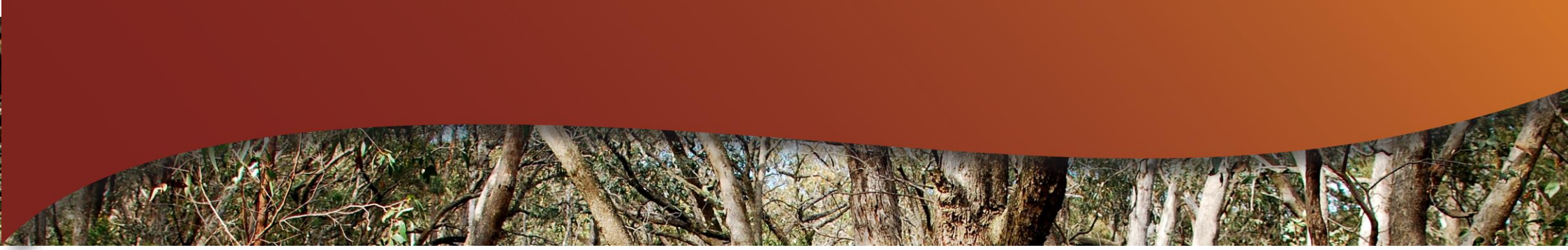


LOCAL CAR SHARE SERVICE



CAMPAIGN FOR USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY PRODUCTS



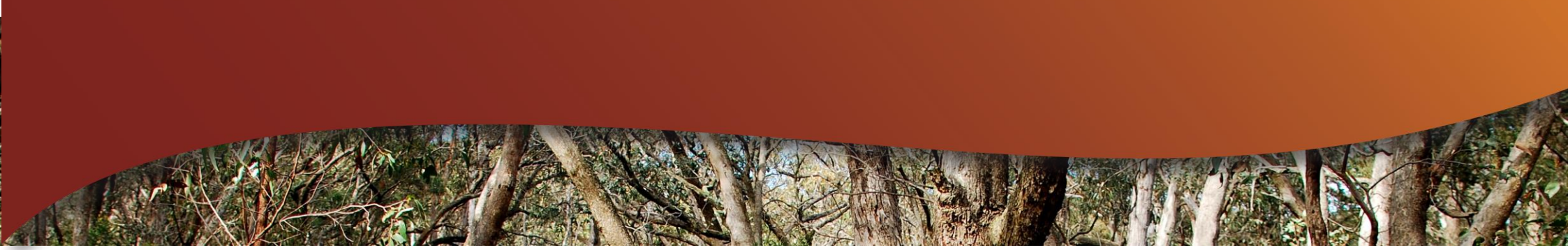


ACTION

ASSOCIATED GOAL/S















LOBBY FOR GRANTS TO RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE HOME & BUSINESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY	
COMMUNITY OWNED RENEWABLE INFRASTRUCTURE	
ADVOCATE FOR 7-STAR ENERGY OVERLAYS BY COUNCIL	
FOLLOW UP WITH MASH (MORE AUSTRALIAN SOLAR HOMES) RE. COMMUNITY RENEWABLE SUPPLIERS	
INCREASE EMERGENCY HOUSING SUPPLY	
WIDGET ON COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR HOME EMERGENCY ACTIONS / ACTIVITIES	
CREATE AN EMERGENCY MAP	
“PETS & PLANNING (FOR AN EMERGENCY)” WORKSHOPS	
REGULAR ARTICLE IN GISBORNE GAZETTE FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTION / ACTIVITIES	







ACTION

ASSOCIATED GOAL/S

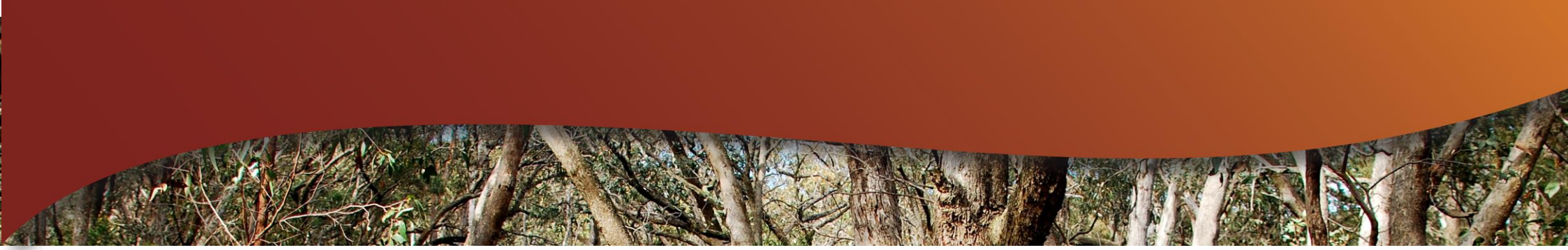
"HAVE A CUPPA WITH A COP" EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN	
PROMOTE & ENHANCE CFA & SES EVENTS	
"MEET YOUR NEIGHBOUR" CAMPAIGN	
"GETTING OFF PLASTIC" CAMPAIGN	 
COMMUNITY PANTRY / FOOD SWAP NETWORK / FARMERS MARKET	 
COMMUNITY CLIMATE STORYTELLING / CONVERSATION SPACE	
SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOPS (BEESWAX WRAP MAKING, IMPACTS OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS)	 
BECOME A PLASTIC FREE TOWN	 
INVESTIGATE A REGION-WIDE BULK BUY / REFILL FOOD TRUCKS (EG. precycle pantry)	 





ACTION	ASSOCIATED GOAL/S
LOBBY FOR GISBORNE PINE PLANTATION HANDOVER	 
ENCOURAGE ECO-VILLAGE BUILDING DESIGN, COMMUNAL LIVING OPTIONS, TINY HOUSE CONSTRUCTION	 
RETAIL STORE SELLING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS	
COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHTS (AT GISBORNE'S MECHANICS INSTITUTE)	
SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED GUEST SPEAKERS IN PARKS & HALLS	 
EMBRACE & ENHANCE CULTURAL INCLUSIVITY & INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION (NAMING / RENAMING LANDMARKS)	
INCREASE ACTIVE TRANSPORT OPTIONS	 
ADVOCATE FOR MORE INDIGENOUS PLANTS ON PUBLIC OPEN SPACES	 
ADVOCATE FOR ENHANCE AND PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY INTO FUTURE (EG. CAT CURFEWS)	





Appendix 3 (township vulnerabilities)

Note: Participants understand that this is not an fully exhaustive list of township vulnerabilities and that it is subject to change with the inclusion on new perspectives and township demographic changes.

VULNERABILITIES		
Limited range of services & retail eg, hardware	Planning rules leading to poor design & development	Lack of rentals/affordable housing
Black spots in communication	Population – increase	Business centre in risk zone
Heat sinks (at all levels)	Commuter community (challenging to engage & mobilise)	Biodiversity loss
Lack of neighbourhood house / community house / hub	New residents not aware of exposure to risks (bushfires, floods)	Invasive weeds
Lack of awareness and connection to nature	Fragility of soils, water and biodiversity	Lack of connection between existing residents and newly arrived
		Lack of interaction between community groups



Appendix 4 (community assets map)



Community Assets Map

List assets that we already have that become drivers for climate action.