

Our planet and environmental sustainability

Banyule is a desirable place to live with access to quality open space, natural environments, waterways and a sustainable transport network in the region.

Council has an ongoing commitment to achieving outcomes that are sustainable, eco-friendly and bear the least impact on our environment including our response to climate change and the way our waste is managed.

Below is information about our municipalities impact on the environment and the ways in which we are working on protecting and conserving the planet. You may find this information useful to consider when participating in the Shaping Banyule 2041 engagement activities.

What we are currently doing

Council plays a pivotal role in driving and advocating for changes that improve the environmental sustainability in the municipality. Council has prioritised the following actions:

- Enhancing and developing green spaces and reserves through urban greening
- Protecting native and non-native plants and animals
- Improving energy and water efficiencies of new and current council managed facilities
- Improving waterways infrastructure and management to reduce pollution and improve water efficiency
- Using the planning scheme to ensure future developments lead to sustainable outcomes
- Accelerating actions to reduce Council emissions and supporting the community to do the same.

Banyule's natural environment at a glance



606.4 hectares
of open space owned and managed by Council



285 hectares
of open space owned and managed by the state government



30 bushland reserves



22 sites of environmental significance



60,000 street trees

Banyule's natural environment at a glance continued



Climate action

- Council is committed to delivering urgent action to reduce our emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- In December 2019 the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan was adopted by Council, with a goal of carbon neutrality by 2028 (without the purchase of offsets).
- This framework has facilitated a whole of council approach to carbon emission reductions.
- Notably in 2019/20, Banyule's total solar capacity reached a million kW, with installations across Council owned buildings.
- A commitment to procure 100% of green electricity from 2021 (via a Power Purchasing Agreement) will provide significant reductions to Council footprint.

Water



There are many waterways in our municipality; the Yarra River, Darebin Creek, the Plenty River, and Banyule, Salt and Karingal Yalloc Creeks as well as Banyule and Warringal Swamps and Banyule Billabong.



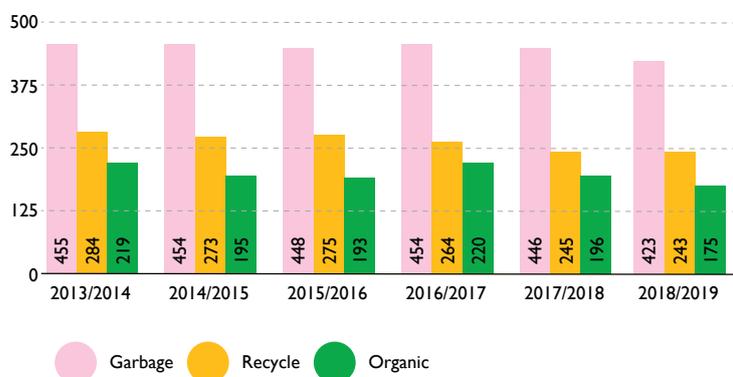
Efficient use of water is critical to sustaining community assets including sports grounds, open space and established public gardens. It is also critical to the delivery of our services like street sweeping, operation of aquatic centres, and truck washdown associated with waste collection.



Our community has also been taking active steps to reduce their water usage. There has been a consistent increase over the last 10 years in the proportion of households engaging in basic water efficiency actions, such as changing showerheads and reducing shower times.

Waste management

Figure 1. Household Waste volumes over time (kg)



There has been a gradual decline of household waste volume from 2013/2014 to 2018/2019.

Individual household changes from 2013/2014 to 2018/2019 include:



We have identified the following opportunities to manage and reduce waste in Banyule:

- Commit to a goal of 'zero waste' going to landfill
- Support culture shift to encourage community members to take responsibility and strive towards 'zero waste'
- Deliver sustainable, eco-friendly and affordable recycling and waste services
- Advocate to other levels of government to decrease waste generation and increase use of waste recycling systems
- Understanding and responding to the challenges of climate change

We recognise the state of climate emergency and recognise the urgent responsibility to act in order to reduce emissions across Banyule.

Sustainable forms of transport



There are nine railway stations across the municipality, providing connectivity to Melbourne to the south, and through to Eltham and Hurstbridge to the north.



There are 20 bus services operating through Banyule, comprising 17 neighbourhood routes and three orbital smart bus services.



Tram route 86 operates along the north-west border of the municipality, connecting to La Trobe University and Bundoora RMIT to the north, and Melbourne Docklands to the south.

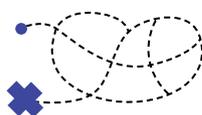
We are aiming to develop accessible, sustainable and active transport networks to connect residents with good access to jobs, education, shopping and community opportunities.



Continued advocacy to the State Government for increased safe pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

We are currently implementing the Banyule Walking Strategy 2018-2028 that sets out how Council can assist the local community in participating in more walking activity.

These directions are to:



creating a comprehensive walking network;



make it safer, easier and more comfortable to walk throughout Banyule; and



to support a walking culture in Banyule

Things to think about:

What other initiatives are there to protect and improve our natural environment and waterways?

What is the role of Council, community and other organisations in responding to climate change?

How do we make sustainable transport options available for all?

Join the conversation at

shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Banyule2041



The information included in this fact sheet have been sourced from a variety of data collections, please contact Banyule City Council for more information.

Interpreter service

If you need an interpreter call TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.

