

Resilience and Sustainability

Strengthening communities, conserving nature and achieving Net Zero



Australia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, with many communities – including Yarra Ranges – experiencing rolling extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency and intensity.

Whole-of-nation effort and cooperation is needed to **reduce disaster risks** and **strengthen resilience** of our communities, economies, and natural and built environments to ongoing shocks and stressors.

Concurrently, Australia’s commitment to **net zero by 2050** is key to protecting natural resources and building the long-term sustainability and reliability of energy resources that communities depend on every day and in times of emergency.

Alongside Australia’s renewed targets for **biodiversity conservation**, there is clear direction and fresh opportunities for collaboration, partnership and investment between governments and community to adapt to our changing climate, protect our unique assets and create a thriving, sustainable future.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

Due to the population and natural landscape, Yarra Ranges is rated as one of the **highest risk areas for natural disasters in Australia**, and our critical infrastructure systems are extremely vulnerable.

However, with deep community relationships and an expansive asset portfolio, Yarra Ranges Council actively supports community to better prepare for disasters, protect our natural environment and transition smoothly to a Net Zero economy.

In particular, the **Resilient Yarra Ranges** program, delivered with \$10 million support through the Australian Government’s **Preparing Australian Communities** program, has enabled Council to deliver a wide-reaching program of work in partnership with the community to reduce emissions, care for Country, and prepare for and reduce the risk of fires, floods, storms and landslides.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Plan • Environment Strategy • Liveable Climate Plan • Nature Plan • Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan • Economic Development Strategy • Integrated Water Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria’s Bushfire Management Strategy • Resilient Recovery Strategy • Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy • Renewable Energy Action Plan • Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037 • Digital Inclusion Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Disaster Resilience • The Second National Action Plan • Closing the Gap Implementation Plans • National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025 • Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019-2030 • Net Zero 2050 • Powering Australia Plan

With continued investment and targeted policies, Yarra Ranges Council is well-placed to expand its work to enhance liveability and emergency preparedness, safeguard our natural resources and contribute to the achievement of Australia's emissions reduction targets.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
★ Resilient Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommit to Preparing Australian Communities program and Yarra Ranges' place-based resilience project • Small business resilience program • Indigenous cultural asset mapping
★ Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Commonwealth Government program funding location eligibility • Fund industry projects to address mobile blackspots • Upgrade NBN in key peri-urban locations • Strengthen network resilience across the region
★ Firestick Cultural Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200,000 to build capability with local indigenous organisations • \$100,000 research project to support expansion of Firestick at local, regional and state level
Greening the Suburbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.5 million to plant and establish 130,000 trees over four years, increase tree canopy, increase habitat and mitigate urban heat island effect.
Fire Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300,000 per annum for 5 years for woody weed removal
Biolinks and Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$450,000 establishment, \$350,000 per year for 10 years to address invasive plant and animal species and strengthen habitat corridors
Energy Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6 million over 4 years for zero emissions facilities • \$2 million over 4 years for zero emissions fleet and plant • \$1 million over 4 years for community climate adaptation program
Resilient Living Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million over 4 years for Integrated Water Management • \$400,000 over 4 years for Sustainable Food Systems Program • \$200,000 for 4 years for Sustainable Living Festival

★ **Priority initiative**