

Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan (2016–2026) Implementation Report



Urban heat is one of the most tangible and immediate impacts of climate change in Merri-bek. Hotter summers, more frequent heatwaves, and dense urban development combine to increase heat across our streets, buildings, and public spaces. In response, Council adopted the Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan (UHIE Action Plan) in 2016, with a vision of making Merri-bek cooler, greener and more liveable by 2026.

This report evaluates the UHIE Action Plan as it approaches the end of its ten-year lifespan. It explains what this Plan set out to do, what has been delivered, where challenges remain, and how Council's work on urban heat will continue beyond 2026.

Summary

The Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan 2016–2026 has guided Council's work to reduce urban heat and help the community cope with extreme heat. Of the Plan's 47 actions, 27 have been completed, 13 are ongoing and embedded in newer strategies, five remain incomplete and have been embedded into newer strategies, and two were not progressed because the proposed delivery approaches were not feasible. Key achievements include:

- Public realm tree numbers and canopy are growing, and planting is also prioritised in heat-vulnerable streets and neighbourhoods. Although tree losses on private land continue to constrain municipality-wide canopy gains.
- Stormwater harvesting capacity has grown to 49 ML per year to support irrigation and cooling of sportsfields and open spaces, exceeding the Action Plan's original target of 30 ML per year capacity target.
- Cooling, thermal comfort and climate resilience of Council community buildings have been improved through insulation, glazing, heating, cooling and ventilation upgrades.
- Community programs have supported people more vulnerable to heat through home retrofits, thermal comfort subsidies, citizen science and community engagement.
- Planning policy and controls have increasingly recognised the importance of trees, greening, thermal performance and urban cooling, although recent Victorian planning reforms have changed and, in some areas, reduced Council's ability to influence outcomes through individual planning applications.
- Embedding urban heat considerations in Council's strategies, policies, planning and ongoing operations.

Challenges remain, including tree losses on private land and limited progress in encouraging cooling upgrades on large private and industrial sites. Available data does not allow Council to confirm whether the original vegetation-cover target for the Plan's identified vulnerable areas was achieved.

Work to address urban heat will continue through Council's climate risk, urban forest, integrated water management and other relevant strategies. These provide the framework for continuing the Plan's ongoing and outstanding actions beyond 2026. Urban heat remains a serious and ongoing challenge, particularly in the face of climate change and urbanisation. Through the delivery of the UHIE Action Plan,

Merri-bek is better positioned to respond than it was a decade ago. We have the policies, approaches, and experience to continue working on cooling our environment for our people, places and spaces.

Why Urban Heat Matters in Merri-bek

The urban heat island effect occurs when cities become significantly hotter than surrounding areas. In Merri-bek, this is driven by:

- Large areas of asphalt, concrete and dark roofs which absorb and retain heat
- Limited tree canopy and vegetation to provide shade and cooling
- Dense development patterns which 'trap' heat in urban centres
- Heat produced by buildings, vehicles and industry

Climate change compounds these effects through hotter summers and more frequent, intense and prolonged heatwaves.

On extreme heat days, air temperatures in parts of Merri-bek can be 4–7°C hotter than surrounding areas, with some surface temperatures exceeding 70°C¹. These conditions increase the risk of heat-related illness and place pressure on health services.

Urban heat does not affect everyone equally. Older people, young children, people with chronic illness, renters, and those living in poorly insulated homes are more vulnerable to heat and its impacts. Hot streets and unshaded shops also affect how people move around, socialise and use public space.

Shade and cooling are basic conditions for safe mobility in our cities. They are important in maintaining public life into the future where we are looking at hotter and longer summers. Addressing urban heat is therefore not only an environmental issue, but also a public health, equity, economic and liveability issue.

The UHIE Action Plan: Vision and Approach

Adopted in 2016, the UHIE Action Plan was one of the first of its kind among local governments in Victoria. The plan received significant recognition and won the Premier's Sustainability Award in 2017. Its vision was clear:

"Merri-bek in 2026 will be cooler and more liveable with improved protection from urban heat."

The Plan identified five 'priority areas' across the municipality, based on heat exposure and social vulnerability, including parts of Glenroy, Fawkner, Coburg, Brunswick, activity centres, and industrial areas.

The 47 actions identified by the Plan were organised under three broad goals:

- Integrating urban heat responses across all of Council
- Reducing heat through green infrastructure, cool buildings and cooler streets
- Raising community awareness and supporting community action

A key principle of the Plan was that urban heat required a whole-of-Council approach embedded into everyday decision making.

What Has Been Delivered Since 2016

A comprehensive review undertaken assessed the progress of all 47 actions.

Overall results:

- 27 actions completed
- 13 actions ongoing, and embedded in newer strategies
- 5 actions incomplete but carried forward in newer strategies to achieve the same outcomes

¹ FLIR thermal camera readings. January 27, 2026.

- 2 actions not progressed due to feasibility or lack of external stakeholder incentive.

In practical terms, the majority of the Plan's intent has been delivered. Alongside the projects and programs delivered, the Plan has helped embed urban heat considerations in how Council plans, designs and maintains the city. Ongoing and outstanding actions have been incorporated into newer strategies to support continued delivery.

Urban heat considerations now appear across the following Council strategic documents:

- Council Action Plan and integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Climate Risk Strategy & Foundational Action Plan
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Open Space Strategy & Action Plan
- Park Close to Home Framework
- Integrated Water Management Strategy & Action Plan
- Nature Plan
- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Streets for People Plan
- Places for People Plan
- Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy
- Sustainable Building Policy
- Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (in development)
- Technical Notes
- Extreme Heat Sub-Plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan

This integration and supporting a more sustained, longer-term response in core planning processes is one of the UHIE Action Plan's most significant achievements.

Greening Merri-bek through Trees, Water and Open Space

Tree canopy and vegetation

Increasing tree canopy is one of the most effective ways to reduce local heat. Since 2016:

- Public realm tree numbers have grown steadily
- Planting has increasingly focused on heat-vulnerable streets and neighbourhoods
- Stronger planning controls and local laws now protect existing canopy

While total canopy cover has fluctuated (largely due to tree losses on private land) recent data shows a gradual recovery, highlighting the importance of ongoing planting and tree protection. Council continues to focus on identified priority areas within its street tree planting program.

Water and cooling

Water plays a vital role in cooling the city through evapotranspiration and by supporting vegetation that provide canopy. Council's portfolio of blue-green infrastructure has grown over the past 10 years. As of 2025, Council has:

- 49 megalitres per year of stormwater harvesting capacity
- Irrigation across a large number of sports fields and key open spaces
- Growing integration of water-sensitive urban design (WSUD) into streets, parks, and passive open space

Trees and water provide significant and complementary cooling benefits and remain a key focus for Council. As such they remain a key focus for ongoing delivery at Council. Some examples of how we are continuing to do this are:

1. Sportsground upgrades – future sportsground upgrades provide opportunities to integrate stormwater harvesting to support irrigation, vegetation and urban cooling.
2. Embedding water in open space and urban design projects – water-sensitive design is increasingly incorporated into open space projects to support vegetation and urban cooling. For example, Michelle Guglielmo Park includes raingardens that capture and use stormwater to support tree growth and help cool the space. At Gavin Park, the design also responds to the historic alignment of Westbreen Creek, creating opportunities to integrate water into the landscape.
3. Streetscape upgrades – passive irrigation can be integrated into tree pits to capture stormwater, support healthier tree growth and increase shade and cooling.

Resilient Buildings and Infrastructure

Buildings

The UHIE Action Plan helped shift attention to the role buildings play in urban heat, and the requirements of buildings to serve at-risk populations in future climates. Key outcomes include:

- Cooling on community facilities and energy efficiency upgrades were delivered in major Council buildings through insulation and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning upgrades.
- The implementation of the Sustainable Buildings Policy for Merri-bek Council building projects resulted in buildings like kindergartens and libraries that are more comfortable and energy efficient.
- Stronger planning requirements encouraged lighter roof colours and better thermal performance²

Roads and paths

The Plan initially explored “cool roads”—ground-level surfaces made from lighter-coloured materials. Evidence from Australian trials showed:

- Small reductions in surface temperatures versus typical materials
- Little impact on overall air temperature observed at a wider scale
- Potential negative effects at the human scale, such as glare and discomfort from radiant heat

As a result, following investigations Merri-bek prioritised shade, trees, WSUD and better street design over surface colour alone, reflecting Council’s prioritisation of evidence-based solutions.

Community Programs and Social Equity

The UHIE Action Plan recognised that reducing urban heat must also support those most at risk and ensure a just transition to a more heat-adapted future.

Key initiatives included:

- The Cooling Communities program, retrofitting social housing with insulation, shade, trees and efficient cooling solutions
- Thermal comfort subsidies for low-income households
- Citizen science projects mapping local heat hotspots
- Community surveys shaping climate risk planning

Over time, Council’s approach evolved; rather than standalone programs, urban heat responses are now increasingly embedded in core services and internal operations, helping to ensure a longer-term impact.

² While this was successful in the past, the new ‘deemed to comply’ processes in planning limits Council’s ability to negotiate light-coloured materials.

Gaps, Challenges and Lessons

Despite progress, challenges remain:

- Private land tree loss continues to offset some public gains
- Upgrades and retrofits of Council buildings for improved thermal comfort
- Some novel solutions, such as green roofs and light-coloured roads, remain untested at scale in Victorian or Australian contexts
- Council has limited ability to regulate or incentivise cooling upgrades on commercial and industrial land
- Council relies on partnerships with external stakeholders to deliver urban heat outcomes for many public infrastructure projects. Cooling along activity centres and main roads like Sydney Road, for example, remain as challenges.
- Measuring “success” for urban heat is complex and cannot rely on land surface temperature data alone

What Happens After the UHIE Action Plan Ends?

The UHIE Action Plan reaches the end of its lifespan in 2026. Its objectives and ongoing and outstanding actions have been embedded into newer strategies and increasingly in Council, strategies, policies and operations, providing a framework for continued delivery and report. This also provides the foundation for urban heat to continue to be addressed as an integrated climate resilience issue beyond 2026.

Ongoing work will continue through strategies, action plans, and policies³ such as:

- Climate Risk Action Plans
- Urban Forest, Integrated Water Management and Nature Plans
- Integrated Transport and Infrastructure programs
- Sustainable building, infrastructure and asset management policies and procedures

Future priorities include:

- Clearer, more measurable urban heat outcomes
- Connecting with community on heat through public engagements and forums
- Updated heat mapping and vulnerability data
- Stronger design guidance and implementation for streets, buildings and open space

The Changing Context for Urban Heat

As Merri-bek grows and the climate warms, providing shade, vegetation and water in urban areas remains an important challenge. Streets, parks and development sites need to accommodate housing, transport, infrastructure and open space, making it important to incorporate cooling into planning and design from the outset.

Council will continue to use its planning, asset management and service delivery roles to support urban cooling within the applicable Victorian planning framework. Partnerships with landowners, the Victorian Government, utilities and community organisations will remain important to improving cooling across both public and private land.

While innovative approaches exist internationally to green and cool urban spaces, they are in their relative infancy.

At the same time, Victorian Government planning reforms have reduced local government control over urban planning, limiting Council’s ability to mandate and negotiate strong environmental sustainability outcomes in new development.

³ Refer to Appendix 1 for a full list.

These challenges are compounded by climate change, which is driving more frequent, intense and prolonged heat events, increasing the cooling task just as space and flexibility are reduced. In this context, the “heavy lifting” for urban cooling must increasingly come from the public realm and hard-working spaces that remain, like parks and open spaces particularly along creeks, streets and footpaths, activity centres, nature strips, roads and rail corridors, car parks, and all Council-owned land and buildings. Making these spaces work harder for shade, water and vegetation is essential to protecting health, liveability and equity in a growing and warming city.

How Can We Work Together on Solutions?

While many of the major drivers of urban heat require continued action by Council, State government, landowners and infrastructure providers, there are also practical ways residents and community organisations can contribute to a cooler and more heat-resilient Merri-bek.

Residents can contribute by:

- planting and caring for trees and gardens where space allows,
- protecting existing vegetation,
- choosing lighter-coloured roofs and surfaces during renovations,
- improving insulation and shading at home,
- conserving and reusing water for irrigating gardens and trees,
- volunteering and stewardship of raingardens and waterways and participating in local planting,
- helping to water establishing street trees in hot weather, and
- supporting initiatives for street trees or passive irrigation.

Community groups, schools, sports clubs, faith organisations and local businesses can support cooling by:

- greening their sites,
- providing shade over hard surfaces,
- opening cool spaces to the community during heat events, and
- integrating water-sensitive design into upgrades.

Larger landholders, including industrial sites, shopping centres, government agencies and infrastructure providers, have an especially important role to play by using car parks and large paved areas to deliver shade, trees, water and reflective materials at scale.

State Government, utilities, research institutions and delivery partners are also critical in setting supportive policy frameworks, funding, research and innovation. Responding to urban heat is a shared task, and lasting change will only be achieved if all parts of the community work together to make Merri-bek cooler, healthier and more liveable as the climate continues to warm.

Spotlight on the Urban Heat Forum

Council organised an Urban Heat Forum on March 27, 2026. The Forum brought together around 60 community members, Council, researchers, government, industry and local organisations to share experiences, build a common understanding, and explore practical ways to create cooler, safer and more heat-resilient communities.

Through short presentations, shared stories and facilitated discussions, the forum explored lived experiences of heat, showcased local innovations, and identified opportunities for action and partnership across the built environment and community sectors.

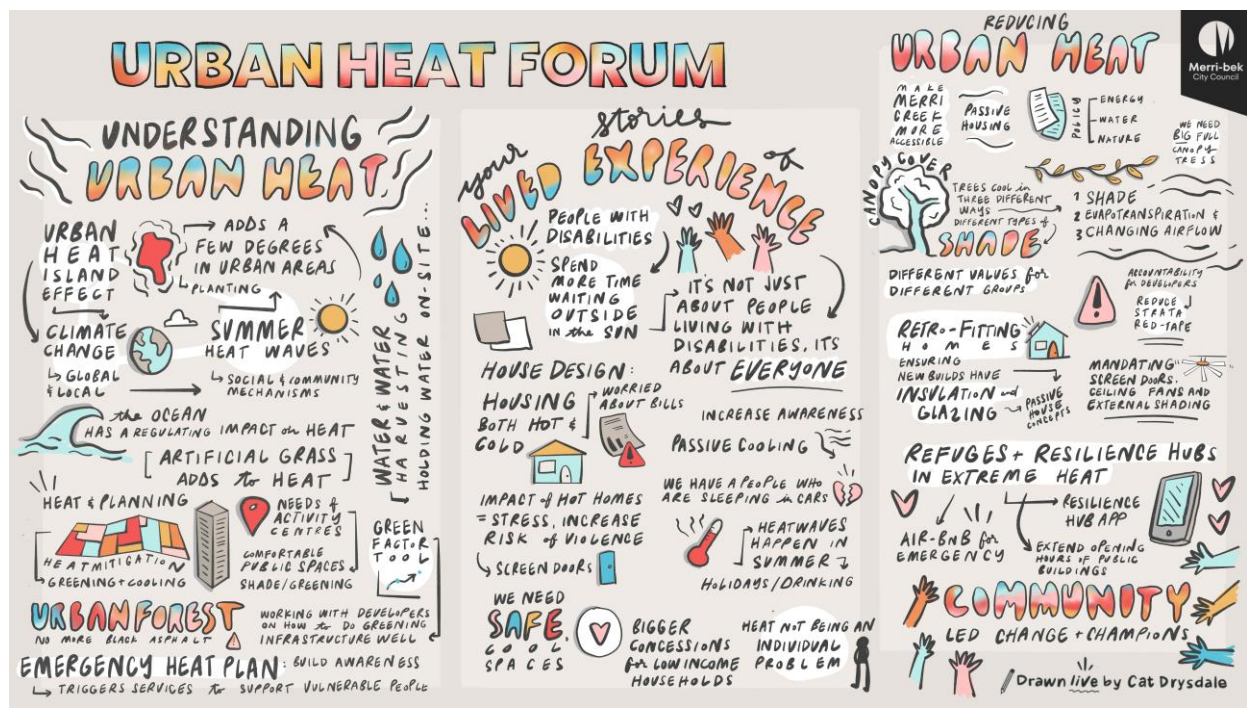
Some of the key messages and solutions that participants put forward were:

1. **We need to break down silos on policies and programs.** Work on energy, water, and nature are often treated separately. With integrated approaches, we can unearth systemic barriers and find solutions that respond to multiple outcomes.

2. **Passive retrofit solutions can save money.** Giving people better access to information on shading, ventilation, and insulation can help people have cooler and safer homes. while reducing reliance on active cooling.
3. **Ceiling fans and screen doors can make a big difference.** Participants identified opportunities such as bulk-buy programs or preferred supplier arrangements, as well as advocacy for stronger rental standards and financial support for low-income households.
4. **Local champions are an untapped resource within the community.** Cultural and generational knowledge, practical tips, and local knowledge can help share information about heat resilience with young people, older people, or anyone with access to information.
5. **We can help each other during heatwaves.** Extreme heat can often happen when services are paused like public holidays or school holidays in summer. Strong community connections and access to safe public spaces can help people to support each other during these times.
6. **We need safe spaces for everyone.** Hot homes can be unsafe during extreme heat. Participants identified the potential for network of neighbourhood resilience hubs such as cultural clubs, sports clubs, schools, and other community facilities to provide accessible places for people during heatwaves, supported by clear information about where and when they are available.
7. **How we talk about the benefit of trees can inspire community action.** Connecting trees with shared values like liveability, shade and cooling, and leaving a positive legacy can encourage more people to plant, care for, and retain trees.
8. **Community-led change can be powerful.** We can cool our streets. We can plant trees in our front yards for street cooling, cool our nature strips with planting, and leave temporary seating at stops. We can advocate for solutions like accessible and shaded bus and tram stops. It's not just for people living with disabilities but for everyone.

The Forum reinforced the need for Merri-bek's future approach to urban heat to combine physical cooling of the built environment with community resilience, preparedness and support for people most vulnerable to extreme heat. It also highlighted the importance of integrated approaches across water, greening, buildings, energy, health and community resilience.

The image below was a live visual recording of the session.



Appendix 1: Reporting against the Key Performance Indicators of the Urban Heat Island Effect Action Plan

Goal 1: Responding to the Urban Heat Island Effect by setting and reviewing actions and targets to meet UHIE strategies through an integrated whole of Council approach			
Strategy	Targets	Key Performance Indicators (priority areas)	Evaluation/response to KPIs (2026 evaluation)
Strategy 1: Integration of UHIE reduction and responses into existing operations, policies and programs	All relevant Council Policies and Strategies are to incorporate relevant urban heat island effect mitigation and adaptation solutions	• Relevant policies including UHIE reduction and response • Relevant actions implemented	Relevant Council operational and strategic documents have incorporated UHIE responses since 2016. Relevant Council documents include: • Council Action Plan and integrated Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan • Climate Risk Strategy & Foundational Action Plan • Urban Forest Strategy • Open Space Strategy & Action Plan • Park Close to Home Framework • Integrated Water Management Strategy & Action Plan • Nature Plan • Climate Emergency Action Plan • Streets for People Plan • Places for People Plan • Moving Around Merri-bek Strategy • Sustainable Building Policy • Sustainable Infrastructure Policy (in development) • Technical Notes • Extreme Heat Sub-Plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan Implementation of UHIE Action Plan actions were reviewed in 2024/25 in anticipation of close-out of the Action Plan. The review found that from 47 total actions, 40 were complete or ongoing and 5 were incorporated in the abovementioned more recent planning

			documents. Two advocacy actions were not progressed because the delivery model envisaged in 2016 proved unviable in the absence of incentives for private landholders. The underlying outcome remains relevant and will require different partnerships, policy levers or incentives in future.
Goal 2: Reducing the impact of extreme heat events in Moreland and creating a cooler, greener more liveable city			
Strategy	Targets	Key Performance Indicators (priority areas)	Evaluation/response to KPIs (2026 evaluation)
Strategy 2: Strengthen and build green infrastructure	Increase vegetation cover in Moreland's most vulnerable areas by 35% by 2020 (from Zero Carbon Evolution 'ZCE') Note: This target is subject to review and requires further study to factor in canopy cover and irrigated vegetation information since ZCE was endorsed (action item 2.2)	• Relevant actions implemented • Increased tree canopy cover • Irrigated vegetation	Available monitoring data does not allow Council to determine whether the original target of increasing vegetation cover by 35% in the identified vulnerable areas was achieved. Council monitors municipality-wide tree canopy cover and public tree numbers, while continuing to prioritise planting in areas vulnerable to heat. KPIs and targets for increasing canopy cover from baseline data were established and reflected in the Urban Forest Strategy (per UHIE AP action items 2.1, 2.2). These include: - Increase canopy cover from 14% in 2016 to 29% by 2050 - Increase public realm canopy cover from 5% in 2016 to 10% in 2030, and 20% by 2050 Measurements reported by Council in 2021 showed that tree canopy across the municipality sat at 13.42%, a decrease from 2016, due to loss of trees in private land. Since 2021, tree canopy in the municipality had again risen to 14.4% by 2023. Council also estimates the change in the number of individual trees in the municipality's public realm. The number of trees in Merri-bek's public realm have increased. More information is included in the Urban Forest Strategy Report 2022. The Urban Forest team continues to advocate for maximum tree canopy delivery in new open space projects in the public realm. The Urban Forest team has also directed tree planting efforts to priority

			areas with high heat vulnerability (including those identified in the UHIE AP) in addition to biodiversity areas and recreational spaces.
	Stormwater harvesting infrastructure supplying 30ML/a of treated water for open space irrigation by 2020 (from WaterMap 2020)	• An increase in stormwater harvested for irrigation	Merri-bek Council has stormwater harvesting capacity of 49ML across the municipality as of 2025 for irrigation of sports fields. Irrigated surfaces promote cooling due to evapotranspiration. Further targets and KPIs for stormwater harvesting in Merri-bek have been defined in both the 2020 and 2025 iterations of the Integrated Water Management Strategy, including an overall reduction in Council's mains water use compared to the baseline of 465ML/yr (2018/2019), and a cumulative 1% reduction year on year to 2040.
Strategy 3: Facilitate cool buildings	Council will engage with all relevant stakeholders and community to encourage cool buildings and cool roofs	• Relevant actions implemented from this Action Plan • More cool buildings • Cool roofs installed	Private realm Relevant advocacy actions to encourage cool roofs across Merri-bek were undertaken and led by the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) (previously known as the Moreland Energy Foundation Limited (MEFL)). Following the closure of AEF, and with limited incentives available through regulatory or other means to encourage uptake by commercial and industrial owner-occupiers, this approach was not progressed further. Council subsequently pursued cooling outcomes through planning assessments and engagement with developers. Since May 2022, Council's Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) team have requested light-to-medium-coloured roofs and surfaces in development planning applications. This coincided with endorsement of Amendment VC216; included under Building Design 15.01-2S 'Ensure development provides landscaping that responds to its site context, enhances the built form, creates safe and attractive spaces and supports cooling and greening of urban areas', providing opportunities for the ESD team to negotiate good cooling outcomes in planning applications. While this was successful in the past, in 2026 the Victorian State government introduced new 'deemed to comply' processes in

			planning, which limits Council's ability to negotiate light-coloured materials. Merri-bek promoted the use of the City of Melbourne's 'Green Factor Tool' from 2021 to developers, to assess and plan greening of developments for maximum benefit. As a voluntary tool, this had limited uptake by the developer community. In May 2026, Merri-bek City Council, in partnership with City of Melbourne, developed and published the Green Infrastructure Guidelines to support developers, designers and planning consultants in incorporating vegetation into building projects for greening and cooling. Council buildings A rollout of energy efficiency upgrades on Council buildings was also undertaken on some key Council sites. This resulted in improving cooling and thermal comfort in those buildings. These included: • Heating and cooling upgrades to Brunswick Town Hall and Library • Double glazing of windows and ventilation/air conditioning improvements at Coburg Leisure Centre • Heating and ventilation systems at Fawkner Leisure Centre • Ceiling insulation and HVAC plant replacement at Fawkner Library. In 2025, Council started a program to retrofit buildings to improve climate resilience, with a priority on cooling and thermal comfort. Fawkner Occasional Care and Fawkner Senior Citizens Centre received HVAC and building upgrades for the 2025/26 FY.
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Strategy 4: Create Cool Roads and paths	Moreland will research and investigate the trialling and installing of cool roads and paths infrastructure by 2020	• Cool roads and paths studies reviewed and reported • Cool roads and path infrastructure integrated	Reviews of research and Australian trials undertaken since 2016 found that lighter-coloured road and path surfaces can reduce surface temperatures but have limited impact on ambient temperatures and may have unintended impacts at the pedestrian level, including increased radiant heat and glare. Based on this evidence, Council did not proceed with cool road or path infrastructure, instead prioritising other cooling approaches such as tree canopy, shade, water-sensitive urban design and integrated street design. Evidence suggests that lighter-coloured roofs may provide cooling benefits without the same pedestrian-level impacts associated with lighter road and path surfaces.
Goal 3: Raising community awareness and encourage actions to create a cooler, greener and more liveable city			
Strategy	Targets	Key Performance Indicators (priority areas)	Evaluation/response to KPIs (2026 evaluation)
Strategy 5: Foster a heat aware community	Increased community action to reduce and respond to the urban heat island effect by the community	• Relevant actions implemented • Take up of programs and actions to facilitate reduction of the UHIE (e.g. Positive Charge, SDAPP, WaterSMART)	The Cooling Communities program undertaken in 2017 included building retrofits and the addition of rainwater tanks, greening, trees, planter boxes, and split-system HVAC in social housing areas. In total, 10 homes (4 apartments and 6 attached single-story houses) were provided with retrofits using Council and partner funding. This program was a Premier's Sustainability Award Finalist in 2018. Council has also actively engaged with its community on heat in citizen science, including a 2019 project with RMIT University. Citizen scientists performed experiments to measure urban heat (air and surface temperatures) and identify 'hotspots' across the municipality. As part of the 2021 Climate Risk Action Plan, the Merri-bek community was surveyed and provided responses regarding climate risk exposure in Merri-bek, including what they do hot weather.

			Council incorporated the findings of this survey into its more recent action planning including under the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Merri-bek Council under its Home Energy Subsidy Program also provides (solar) and thermal subsidies up to \$2,000, allowing low-income homeowners to upgrade their homes with insulation and gap sealing to improve their climate resilience. Since 2021, 202 participants in the Merri-bek community have benefitted from this program. Actions to better understand community sentiment toward and valuation of street trees and to encourage planting on non-council land were carried forward into the Urban Forest Strategy. However, action items in the Urban Forest Strategy such as 1.6 "Work with community, kindergartens, nursing homes, childcare centres, scouts/guides, state and private schools, hospitals and large landholders to encourage canopy tree planting" have not progressed whilst the work has focussed on embedding urban heat consideration in Council operations and influencing developments through planning assessments and compliance. Increasing participation by community organisations and large landholders remains an area for further work. Community engagement for the strategy and planning documents listed under Strategy 1 have consistently incorporated urban heat as a consideration early in development. Council also continues to engage with the community on urban heat through E-News, social platforms and Council-hosted events.
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These discussions reinforce the need for Merri-bek's future approach to urban heat to combine physical cooling of the built environment with community resilience, preparedness and support for people most vulnerable to extreme heat. They also reinforce the importance of integrated approaches across water, greening, buildings, energy, health and community resilience.