# **Climate and Nature – Topic Paper Summary**

## Summary

Climate change threatens Moreland’s people, plants and animals. To ensure a safe and healthy future, we need governments and communities to do what we can to reduce waste and carbon emissions.

We need to prepare our community, homes, workplaces and city infrastructure now for the warmer climate and wilder weather to come.

We are also responsible for protecting Moreland’ native plants and animals. And we want to make sure our community has local access to green spaces.

Council, residents, schools and local businesses can work together to achieve these goals.

## Key Issues

**Carbon emissions:** partnering with the community to reduce carbon emissions.

**Climate resilience:** preparing community and infrastructure for extreme weather and a warmer climate.

**Open space:** providing more cool and green open spaces for everyone to access

**Nature:** protecting and enhancing natural areas for wildlife and community benefit.

**Reducing waste:** supporting the reuse and recycling of materials to avoid sending waste to landfill.

## What are some opportunities?

Opportunities in this space might include:

* Community groups, schools and other stakeholders could be supported to take collective action.
* Moreland City Council could work with other councils to establish higher environmental standards for new developments in the planning scheme.
* Encourage more local trips to be made by zero carbon modes, like walking and cycling.
* Design, build or renew our infrastructure to be more resilient, energy efficient and sustainable.
* Improve existing parks so the whole community feels welcome and safer.
* Expand partnerships with Traditional Owners and local environment groups to enhance natural areas.
* Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill through changing our waste service and community behaviours.
* Support the community to minimise the amount of waste they create.

## What Are Some Challenges?

Challenges in this space might include:

* Local government can only influence rather than directly control the municipality’s carbon emissions.
* Raising environmental standards for private development can take a long time and can be hard to get approved.
* Building the resilience of our social and natural systems, and our infrastructure, requires significant investment.
* Maintaining cool and green open spaces is more challenging in a harsher climate.
* The warming and drying climate amplifies existing threats to local natural areas and adaptation of our land management practices is required.
* Households have varying needs, so a one-size-fits-all approach to waste management may not work.

Find out more about Climate and Nature, including supporting data about this issue and the work Council is already doing in this area: Download .pdf of Climate and Nature <Hyperlink>