



## Targeted Conversation #6: Climate change and waste

Moreland City Council: Community Panel

6:30pm - 9pm Tuesday 15th June, Online via Zoom

### Overview of the day

This session was the sixth and final targeted conversation with the Community Panel. Focussing on the topic of “**Climate change and waste**”, the Panel was presented with a relevant problem and remit, posed as two questions, that had been developed by Council. These are shown below:

**Problem:** 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.

**Remit:**

1. How can Council work with the community to increase local capacity for urgent climate action, and improve community resilience to weather extremes?
2. How can Council work with the community (residents and business) to drastically reduce the amount of waste going to landfill?

The session included:

- An introduction to the session and topic
- Presentations from David Meiklejohn and Michaela Skett
- A climate action centred activity, based around the first remit question
- A waste management activity, based around the second remit question

The Panel was also briefed on a supplementary activity covering content from the fourth targeted conversation that they could access through the portal.



## Presentations

### **David Meiklejohn, Executive Officer, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action**

David's presentation centred on climate action at a local government level. He started his presentation by explaining the role of Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA). He then explained the difference between climate mitigation and climate adaptation.

David detailed where Moreland is currently in terms of greenhouse reduction efforts. He expressed Moreland's long term role as a leader in this space, explaining the ways in which Moreland has cut its corporate emissions, as well as its progress in reducing community emissions, and the power purchasing agreement that was achieved in collaboration with other Victorian Councils.

David spoke about the Zero Carbon Moreland campaign, its target of zero carbon emissions by 2040, and how it has led to significant investment in energy upgrades to homes.

David then shifted the conversation to speak about what more needs to be done. He discussed the challenges of scaling up household action (such as the challenge of electrifying homes and shifting away from gas), engaging the commercial sector, supporting transition to sustainable transport, and encouraging more people to become climate advocates.

Finally, David explained Council's place in emission reductions, and how action from every council in Victoria would still not be enough. He ended the presentation by explaining an advocacy role for Council in helping promote change on state, federal and international levels.

### **Michaela Skett, Sustainable Communities Unit Manager, Moreland Council**

Michaela started off her presentation by introducing the topic of waste in relation to Moreland Council. She linked her presentation with David's discussion of greenhouse emissions by explaining the greenhouse emissions produced from food-waste entering landfill, and how this can be prevented through other methods of waste diversion.

Michaela explained that in Council's most recent waste audit, 48% of materials picked up in Moreland were diverted from landfill to either recyclables or food organics and garden organics (FOGO). She outlined that best practice in this area would be 70% diversion. She also explained that on average, 52% by weight of every garbage bin in Moreland is made up of food waste which could be diverted if disposed of differently.

Michaela then went through the current initiatives that Council is working on to encourage a reduction of waste to landfill. This included Food and Garden organics fortnightly collection,

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which has been an opt-in program since July 2019. She discussed the other initiatives, including compost subsidies and various education programs.

Finally, Michaela detailed the Kerbside waste reform project that is currently underway.

Following the presentations, the Panel was invited to ask the presenters questions.

## Activity 1 - Ideas to increase community climate action

Following the Q&A, the Panel was split up into smaller groups to work on the first activity. This centred on the first remit question:

*How can Council work with the community to increase local capacity for urgent climate action, and improve community resilience to weather extremes?*

Groups were asked to review the following strategies outlined by Council:

1. Innovative programs to support commercial / industry / businesses to go renewable and transition off gas (eg group purchasing RE)
2. Initiatives to support community adaptation/resilience (eg existing home thermal retrofits for low income residents, more climate resilient council facilities; community heatwave readiness)
3. Enabling / scaling community emissions reduction (eg solar/ EE bulk buys,)
4. Support for zero emissions transport – (eg. public EV charging)- more supporting EV uptake, car share?
5. Collaborating with community mobilisation/advocacy (eg community skills for climate action program)
6. Embedding climate smart skills/awareness/response into social /community services (eg health services, libraries, NHs, sports, grants, suppliers)

The groups were then asked to:

- Identify any additional activities, gaps or other things to include in existing activities
- Identify the top 5 strategies that would have the biggest impact on building community capacity

Groups then presented their thoughts to the whole Panel.

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## Activity 2 - Reducing household waste

Following a short break, the Panel was then introduced to the second activity, which centred on the second remit question:

*How can Council work with the community (residents and business) to drastically reduce the amount of waste going to landfill?*

In smaller groups, Panel members were asked to consider the question:

- If there is a kerbside collection reform, how do Council support the community towards 'circular economy' thinking/action and becoming leaders in waste reduction?

Groups were asked to provide their top 3 ideas and why they might work. They were instructed to think about:

- How do we bring the community on the journey beyond just communication?
- Any organisations/networks could we partner with?
- What incentives/disincentives could Council investigate?
- What are examples of 'innovative management of waste' that you believe Council should consider?

This activity was completed by the Panel in smaller groups.

Following this, the groups were asked to pitch their ideas. The Panel voted on their top two ideas, and then ranked the new ideas put forward by the groups in addition to the ideas put forward by Council.

## Questions and comments

At the end of the session, the Panel members were invited to provide any last comments about the topic of "**Climate change and waste**" through Menti. No comments were received through Menti, however a few were added to the Zoom chat.

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What's coming up next?

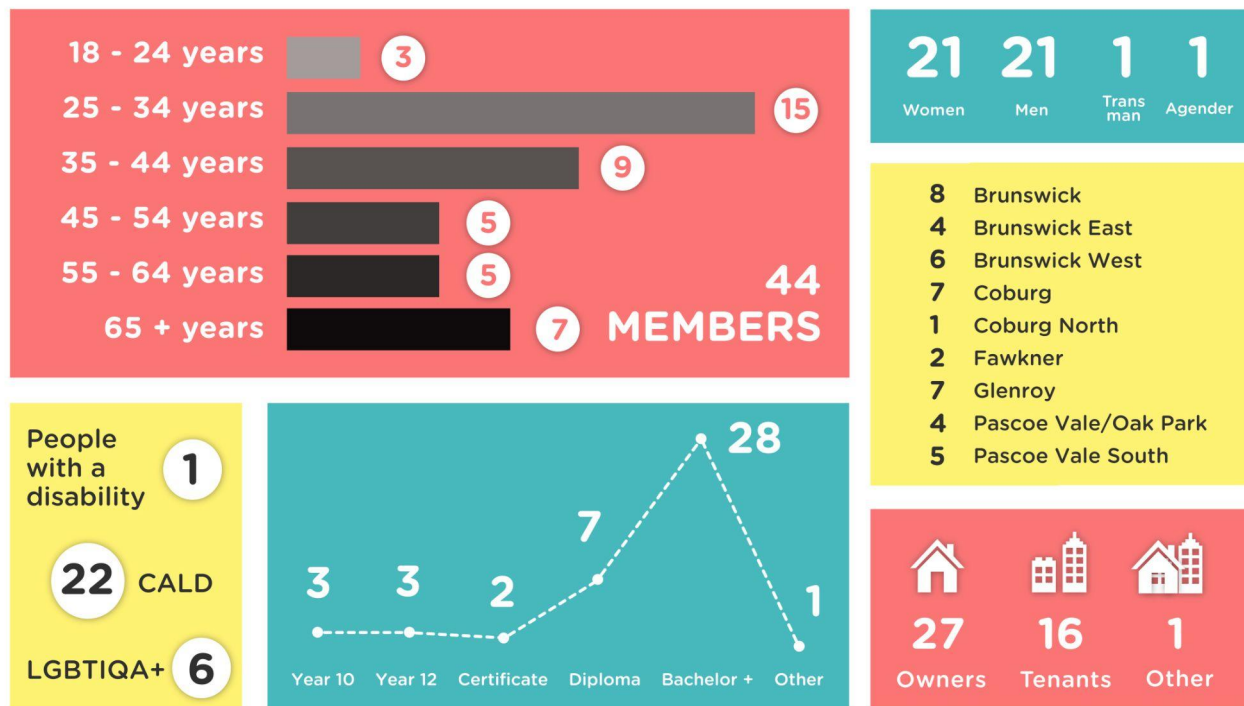
Next week, the Panel will reconvene for a reflection session on Tuesday 22nd of June.

## Demographics of the Community Panel

# IMAGINE MORELAND COMMUNITY PANEL



The Imagine Moreland Community Panel was randomly selected to form a representative sample of the community



Recruitment and stratification undertaken by Deliberately Engaging

There were 30 members of the Community Panel present at this meeting, with no apologies.