

# LET'S TALK ABOUT REDUCING EMISSIONS IN DAREBIN

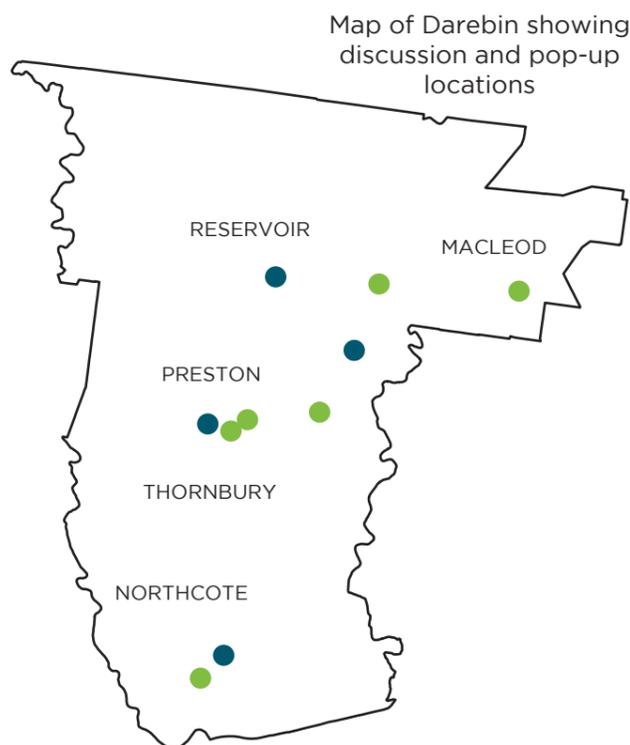
The Climate Action>>What's Next project was an opportunity to update the community on Council's progress to date, and have a conversation about the best way forward to reduce emissions in Darebin.

## WHO DID WE TALK TO?

### STAGE ONE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

86 people

- Local discussion groups
- Older people
- Young people
- Rental tenants
- Council Staff
- People with disability
- Business owners/representatives
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community members
- Discussions, workshops and interviews were held with representatives of the Darebin community.



### STAGE TWO NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

261 people

- People who live, work, study, visit and/or own businesses in Darebin
- Online and face-to-face engagement with a survey to provide feedback.
- Pop-up sessions were held across Darebin.

## WHAT WERE THE KEY MESSAGES?

There is strong support for Darebin to lead action on climate

→ Emission reduction initiatives should have community building outcomes.

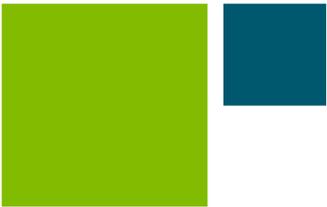
→ Participants want to reach the carbon neutral goal but do not want to pay higher rates.

→ Energy consumption in private dwellings could be better managed.

→ Participants want to hear more about emission reduction activities and programs.

### DAREBIN CLIMATE ACTION SHOULD:

- ✓ Have social, health, and/or financial benefits for the community, as well as environmental benefits.
- ✓ Save council money in the long term.
- ✓ Focus on creating positive local impacts.
- ✓ Prioritise support for the most vulnerable members of the community.



## CLIMATE ACTION PRIORITIES

Participants were asked to rank their priorities for how Council should respond to climate change, this is what they said:

### HIGHEST PRIORITY

- 1 Deliver local energy efficiency programs to help households reduce electricity and gas costs.
- 2 Develop programs to support low income households with energy bills and climate resilience (e.g. providing window shades or reduced cost solar panels).
- 3 Adopt a local Darebin renewable energy target (e.g. a target percentage of Darebin households and businesses having solar panels by 2020).
- 4 Advocate to the state and federal government to strengthen their climate change policies (e.g. increasing the solar feed in tariff).
- 5 Assist businesses and industry to improve their energy efficiency (e.g. facilitate energy efficient light upgrades to reduce costs).
- 6 Ensure Council facilities and services are energy efficient and low carbon.
- 7 Provide leadership in emerging technologies (e.g. solar batteries or electric vehicles).
- 8 Purchase carbon offsets to reach the carbon neutral target.

### LOWEST PRIORITY

## CARBON NEUTRALITY IS IMPORTANT TO YOU

67%

of participants believed it is very important that the community is carbon neutral by 2020

65%

of participants believed it is very important that the Council is carbon neutral by 2020

## FURTHER IMPORTANT CLIMATE ACTIONS

Participants also wanted to see:

Planting more trees and maintaining green areas.

Bulk buy programs and peer-to-peer solar trading.

Communal composting facilities to help reduce food waste.

Energy efficient developments.

Community education.

Active transport.

Localised food production.

## NEXT STEPS

Council is currently reflecting on participant feedback and will be making changes to climate policy soon.

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