

# Environmental Sustainability in Manningham

**Manningham City Council works to protect our natural spaces and address a diverse range of environmental issues and challenges** including preserving biodiversity, encouraging community stewardship, saving energy, addressing climate change and improving water sustainability.

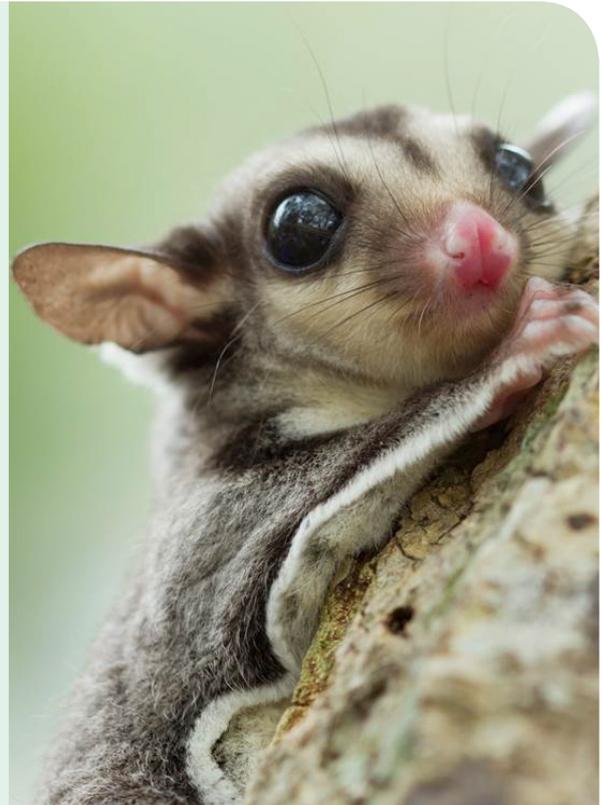
## Biodiversity in the natural environment

Council values Manningham's natural environment and aims to maintain and protect it as a valued community resource. The Green Wedge, east of the Mullum Mullum Creek and the Yarra corridor, is an environmentally important area where bushland provides habitat for wildlife and is rich in biodiversity.

Manningham planning controls protect bushland and biodiversity in balance with the built environment. Most vegetation removal requires residents to apply for a planning permit.

Guided by strategies such as the Green Wedge Action Plan and Bushland Management Strategy, Council has a range of programs that aim to enhance Manningham's biodiversity. Each year, more than 12,000 plants are planted in Council owned bushland reserves and parks. Financial assistance is available to landholders to contribute to controlling pest plants and animals, improving bushland and other works through the Local Environment Assistance Fund and other programs.

Council also supports landcare and environmental friends groups and Deakin University research in Manningham and also runs monthly nature walks and environment seminars to help educate and foster stewardship in the community. Each year, it is estimated that volunteers spend more than 5,000 hours working to help the local environment.



## Moving towards more sustainable transport

Greenhouse gas emissions from transport are a key contributor to climate change. By 2020, road transport emissions in Victoria are projected to be 65 per cent above levels recorded in 1990.

It is important to move towards more sustainable transport alternatives. Council is supporting safe, accessible and convenient public transport options and walking and cycling infrastructure, while advocating for improvements to the bus network and rail extensions to key destinations such as Doncaster Hill.

The community and Council staff are encouraged to use public transport, walk or cycle instead of driving whenever possible. Council has a particular focus on moving people to more sustainable transport in and around Doncaster Hill.

Council's Active Travel to School program supports our local schools to develop Active Travel Plans and delivers initiatives to support this behaviour change program.

Within Council's own vehicle fleet, there are a number of hybrid cars which are less polluting and Council offer staff use of Myki cards to promote the use of public transport instead of using a car for work purposes.



## Sustainable living

Council educates and supports the community to be environmental stewards and behave more sustainably in everyday life.

Stewardship and community engagement programs include the Spring Outdoors and Smarter Living programs, Positive Charge, school and youth education programs, Home Harvest and other sustainable gardening and food programs. These programs support the community through education and citizen science activities related to sustainable living in the home, waste and recycling, biodiversity, saving energy, sustainable gardening, sharing locally produced food and healthy cooking.

Some of the programs are run in partnership with neighbouring councils and not for profit organisations to allow the community access to an even larger range of activities and services. For instance, Positive Charge has facilitated a range of household energy savings including the installation of around 100 solar systems.

More than 5,000 people take part in Council's various sustainability programs each year which allow residents, students and teachers to discover, celebrate and learn how to help the local environment.

## Innovative solutions to address climate change

As part of its Climate 2020 Action Plan, Council is investing almost \$2 million to improve the efficiency of about 6,250 street lights with a switch to Light Emitting Diodes (LED). About 2,300 external lights have already been switched over. LEDs use 75 per cent less electricity than the existing street lights and have the same light output. Annual street light savings are expected to be approximately \$370,000.

99 kilowatts of solar was recently installed at the Council Depot, which is saving about \$13,000 in annual electricity bills. A solar system of more than 400 kilowatts is proposed for the future \$20 million Mullum Mullum Reserve Stadium.

To reduce its impact on the environment, Council is incorporating a range of environmental features into its community facilities. For example, MC<sup>2</sup> (Manningham City Square) in Doncaster includes insulation, double glazing, solar hot water, energy efficient lighting and air conditioning, chilled beams and thermal chimney ventilation.

The trigeneration system at MC<sup>2</sup> and cogeneration system at the nearby Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre produce electricity and heat in a more energy efficient way that emits less carbon than coal-fired grid electricity.

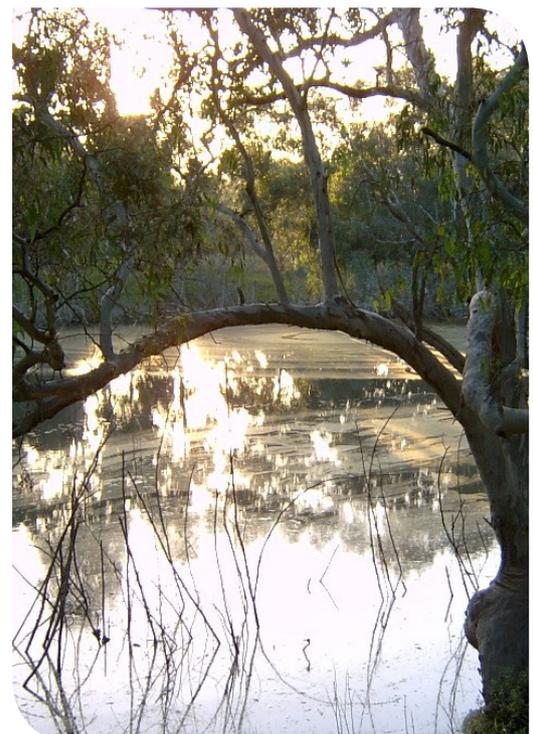
## Water conservation and stormwater quality improvement

Conserving water and improving waterway health is important for improving the liveability of Manningham.

Open space irrigation is Council's largest use of water. Irrigation efficiency improvements and using drought tolerant, warm season grass is assisting Council to reduce its open space water use. Five stormwater capture and reuse systems have been constructed at Council reserves, which can store more than one million litres of water, reducing the amount of mains tap water needed for irrigation.

Harvested rainwater replaces tap water use for toilet flushing at MC<sup>2</sup> in Doncaster and at the Council Depot with more than 200,000 litres of storage capacity. Raingardens at MC<sup>2</sup> and trials of innovative, low maintenance grass and plant-based systems elsewhere remove pollution and nutrients from stormwater that ends up in our creeks and rivers. A partnership with the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities supports research into managing stormwater to protect the environment.

Community Waterwatch volunteers monitor water quality at 20 waterway sites in Manningham to help guide water sustainability initiatives. The water quality result shows significant improvements in areas where Yarra Valley Water has established sewage infrastructure in previously unsewered suburbs of Manningham.



**For more information on Council's environmental initiatives and programs, visit [www.manningham.vic.gov.au/our-environment](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/our-environment)**