



Yarriambiack Shire Council Master Environment Strategy – Community Survey

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Introduction

Yarriambiack Shire Council (**YSC**) takes pride in being environmental responsible and is currently setting and prioritising its key sustainability directions for the next 10 years. To do so, we are preparing a Master Environment Strategy. The strategy covers:

- Waste, Recycling and Resource Recovery
- Climate Action, Adaptation and Mitigation
- Water, Land and Biodiversity

We would like to understand what our community thinks about these topics and where they want Council to focus its efforts. As such, we are seeking your input on environmental priorities and actions for the Council. The results of this survey will be an important input into Yarriambiack Shire's final Master Environment Strategy.

If you wish to complete the survey online scan the QR code or access the survey link in your web browser:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZBBJ6QY>

About you

1. Do you live in town or rurally?

- Town
 Rural

2. How old are you?

- Under 18
 18 – 24
 25 – 34
 35 – 44
 45 – 54
 55 – 64
 65+

3. What is your living situation?

- Homeowner
 Renter
 Other





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Theme 1: Waste, Recycling and Resource Recovery

YSC has a vision for Council and the community to lead in waste reduction and recovering resources to give them another life and maximise their value. By reusing and recycling more, we can transition to an economy that reduces consumption and avoids waste.

4. To achieve our vision for waste, recycling and resource recovery, please tick one of the below options for each statement to what level do you support Council pursuing the following actions:

Proposed Action	No support	Little support	Not sure/ Neutral	Some support	Strong support
Reduce what goes to landfill e.g. recycle or reuse where possible					
Reduce total waste to landfill per household					
Advocate to State Government for consideration of alternatives to mandatory food organics and garden organics (FOGO) fourth bin service for YSC					
Review Council's glass collection service and consider if improvements and/or alternative options (other than bin collection) should be considered					
Implement alternative options for rural waste collection e.g. community recycling hubs, hard rubbish and garden waste collections					
Work with the agricultural industry to address difficult wastes					
Avoid food and garden organics (FOGO) waste going to landfill and work with neighbouring councils on options to process FOGO waste locally					
Review operation of transfer stations to maximise efficiency and service value					
Reduce contamination in recycling bins					
Increase household recycling					
Increase awareness of different recycling streams and recovery programs and provide resources to aid households to separate waste at home					
Encourage community behaviour change to reduce waste generation and increase resource recovery					
Support uptake of household and community practices that focus on reuse and recycling to reduce consumption and avoid waste e.g. composting workshops					
Consider alternative communications to reach more residents, especially those with limited or no internet usage					



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Provide mobile transfer station collection for difficult to recycle or problematic waste streams					
Investigate feasibility of free transfer station drop offs					
Partner with EPA and land management organisations to coordinate action on illegal dumping					
Promote EPA's Litter Report Line					
Explore and encourage localised initiatives with businesses and industries that seek to increase recycling and repurposing of materials that would otherwise end up in landfill					
Avoid waste and use good waste management practices within Council's operations					

5. Do you have any comments on the actions identified above?

6. What other initiatives do you think Council should pursue in relation to waste, recycling and resource recovery in the Shire?



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Theme 2: Environment – Water, Land and Biodiversity

YSC’s vision for this theme is to protect and enhance the natural environment including habitats, water resources and associated cultural values by minimising environmental impacts and supporting healthy ecosystems.

7. To achieve this vision for environment, please tick one of the below options for each statement to what level do you support Council pursuing the following actions:

Proposed Action	No support	Little support	Not sure/Neutral	Some support	Strong support
Collaborate more with landowners on pest and weed management					
Continue to collaborate with catchment management authorities for projects that address the environmental impacts of weeds and pests					
Increase involvement with Yarrilinks to ensure both organisations are working in the same direction and supporting each other to achieve common goals					
Enforce biodiversity protection measures					
Ensure recreational water is secure in the future, especially under changing climate conditions					
Manage land sustainably and encourage other agencies to do the same					
Preserve and protect Traditional Owner (TO) heritage values and culture through engagement with TOs, sensitive land management practices, community education and appreciation					
Enhance waterways and surrounding areas to create more opportunities for the community to connect with the natural environment					
Carry out works to reduce heat impacts in main street districts e.g. create more shaded areas					
Develop an overarching tree strategy for the Shire’s towns to guide future plantings					
Plant more public trees for amenity and to enhance biodiversity					



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8. Do you have any comments on the actions identified above?

9. What other initiatives do you think Council should pursue in relation to the environment in the Shire?



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Theme 3: Climate Action – Adaptation, Mitigation and Renewable Energy

YSC has a vision to play its role in reducing emissions and enhancing community resilience in the face of a changing climate.

10. To achieve this vision for climate action, please tick one of the below options for each statement to what level to you support Council pursuing the following actions:

Action	No support	Little support	Not sure/Neutral	Some support	Strong support
Educate the community about climate resilience, including to events such as fire, heat and floods					
Work with fire agencies and the community to minimise bushfire risk and enhance ecological health					
Support bushfire risk reduction practices on Council-owned and privately-owned land					
Ensure all towns have cool places accessible during extreme heat					
Ensure Council-managed infrastructure can be used to support staff and the community during emergency events					
Maintain and further develop Council's drainage to ensure it remains effective during floods.					
Collaborate with neighbouring councils to undertake a climate risk assessment that identifies the key risks posed to the Shire by climate change					
Start measuring, tracking and reporting Council emissions					
Use emissions measurement as a basis for setting realistic emissions reduction targets, including a net zero by 2045 target					
Educate the community to promote a better understanding of the why it is important that emissions are reduced and how individuals can practically take steps towards doing so					
Support community to understand and access programs that will support mitigation					
Investigate providing more charging stations for electric cars					
Educate the community about opportunities to obtain renewable electricity and programs that will support them to do so					



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Investigate how Council can capitalise on the energy transition					
Investigate cost-effective use of alternative, renewable energy across Council's operations					
Pursue energy efficiency measures for council operations					
Investigate opportunities to transition Council's vehicles to low emissions ones					

11. Do you have any comments on the actions identified above? (Free text response)

12. What other initiatives do you think Council should pursue in relation to climate action in the Shire? (Free text response)



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General

13. Is there anything else you would like to contribute?

A large, empty rectangular box with a light blue background and a thin black border, intended for respondents to provide their answers to question 13.

Completed surveys to be returned to...