

Strathfield council - notes on the draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Overall comments:

Climate change will be the most significant challenge for any of us in the next 20 years.

It is good to see Council acknowledge some of the changes we face (urban heat effect, flooding), and we welcome your plans for a Climate Adaption, Mitigation & Resilience Strategy (A107). This needs to be central to all planning. As it stands, climate seems to be tacked on to some of the action points rather than an integral aspect of the strategic plan.

Not only will increased heat, lower rainfall and heavy storms affect how we all live and work, the necessary move away from a fossil fuel based economy will also create major challenges and opportunities. The draft plan needs to better incorporate technological changes we already know will come, such as the shift to electric vehicles, and ever decreasing costs of renewable energy.

Buildings

- All buildings (residential & business) must be designed (if new) or assisted with retrofitting to minimise heat. Note there are many large houses in Strathfield which no doubt consume considerable amounts of energy especially to keep cool in summer.
- People need cool public spaces (eg. library, council buildings with air conditioning) to access during days of extreme heat, including public holidays
- We need incentives for buildings to adopt green cover (plants on walls, roofs) to reduce heat. This can also increase biodiversity esp. insects
- Incentives for buildings to harvest stormwater

Energy use

- Mandatory targets & deadlines for renewable energy use (council, residential, industrial)
- Solar panels should be mandated on all new buildings
- Council energy use to be 100% renewables by 2030
- Plan for encouraging rooftop solar (eg. via loans) and solar mini-farms to provide power to high-density developments
- Solar farms and wind energy generation opportunities (eg. Enfield logistics centre - so much space there for solar panels!)

Transport

- Not only do we need more & better cycleways & public transport but also *disincentives* for individual car use
- Council should plan for and be leaders in the shift to electric or hydrogen fuel vehicles

Parks and public spaces

- Good to see Council acknowledge the importance of tree canopy. However, there is no mention of which *type* of trees and gardens will best survive in a changing climate, with less rainfall and tighter water restrictions.
- Strategies for water re-cycling
- More micro parks to increase tree canopy and biodiversity. [Note there are essentially NO parks in the area bounded by Homebush Rd, The Boulevard, Liverpool Rd and the train line.]
- People need cool places - with trees, undercover play areas, or water - to go outdoors on hot days

Waste

The vague statement on p62 (Sustainability) 'reduction of waste and an increase recycling (sic) need to be improved and this is something to work towards. ' needs replacing with a much stronger statement acknowledging the harms caused by waste and waste by-products (eg. methane gas), and opportunities for re-use. Council should have a waste and recycling strategy, with reduction targets for council, household and industrial waste.