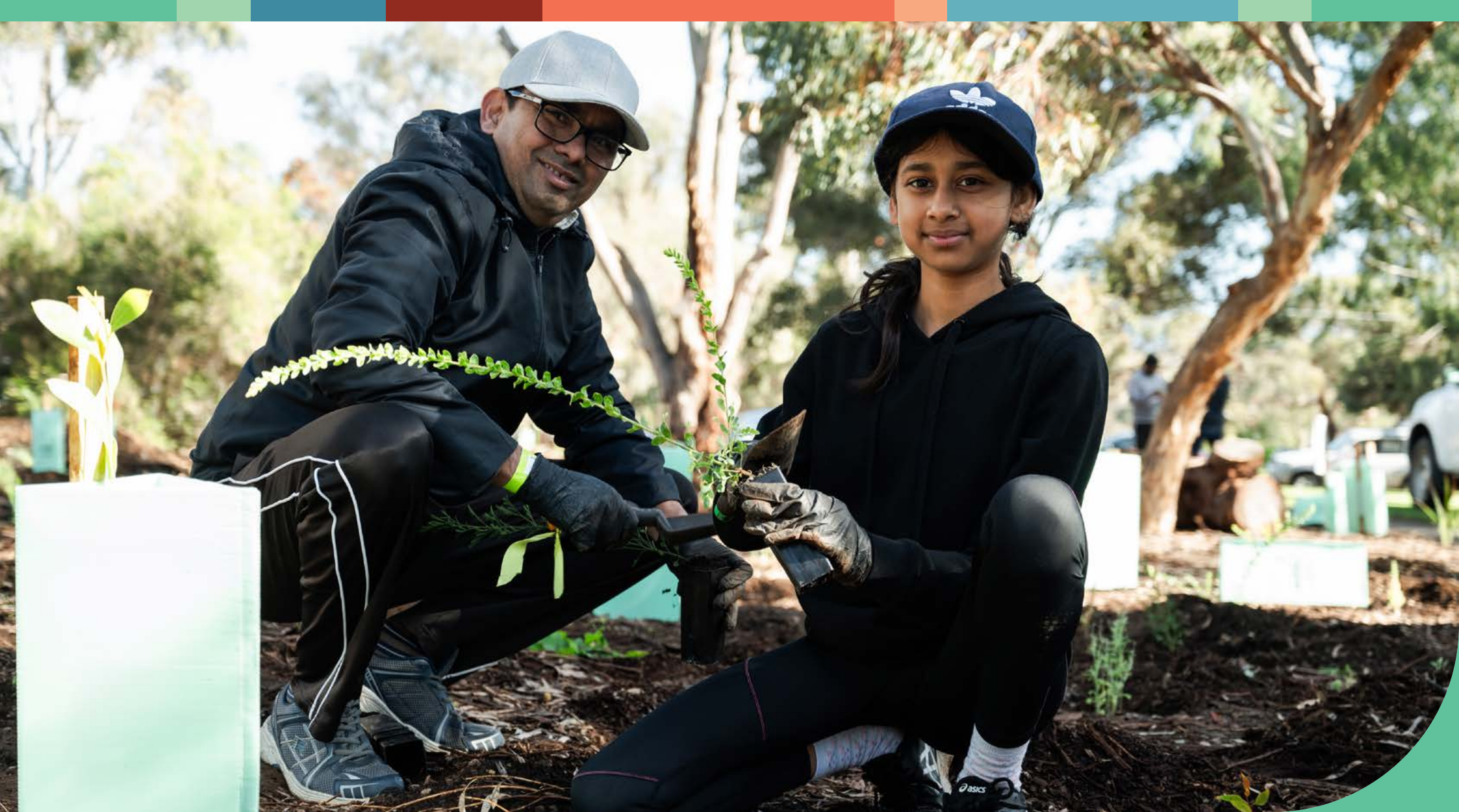




Living Environment Plan

2026-31

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Adopted 11 August 2026.

Cover image: Community members at a planting day event



Mayor's Message

The Living Environment Plan 2026–31 forms part of our Strategic Management Framework. It guides the services, programs, and projects that we plan to deliver to achieve the Clean and Green City goal of our City Vision. Complementing the plan is a suite of three supporting plans: the Integrated Water Management Plan, the Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan and the Climate Response Plan.

PAE's environmental assets, which include coastal dunes, mangroves, samphire habitats, wildlife sanctuaries, remnant vegetation and freshwater systems, are being impacted by rapid development, habitat loss and changing environments. This suite of plans, however, will help us to work together to care for these ecosystems while also supporting the community's growth, wellbeing, and quality of life.

Each of the three plans named above will help us to achieve our overall strategic aims in specific, targeted, and accountable ways. Through the **Integrated Water Management Plan**, we will build a water sensitive city by increasing our use of alternative water sources and collecting data that will help us set credible water quality targets for the future. The **Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan** will help us improve urban forest health in PAE, increase tree canopy cover across the city, protect and increase local habitat, and support people to participate in environmental care. Finally, through the **Climate Response Plan**, the council aims to increase energy efficiency, reduce emissions and build an organisation and community that make thoughtful decisions about the energy they use.

In working to achieve the practical outcomes embedded across this suite of plans, we will lead by example, while also collaborating with other councils and state agencies. It is important to add here how grateful we are for the contributions of the amazing environmental volunteers who have been, are and will continue to be integral to our efforts to care for the environment. Together, we will work to protect natural spaces, restore biodiversity, and build a liveable PAE that current and future generations can continue to love.

Claire Boan
Mayor, City of PAE



Kaurna Acknowledgment

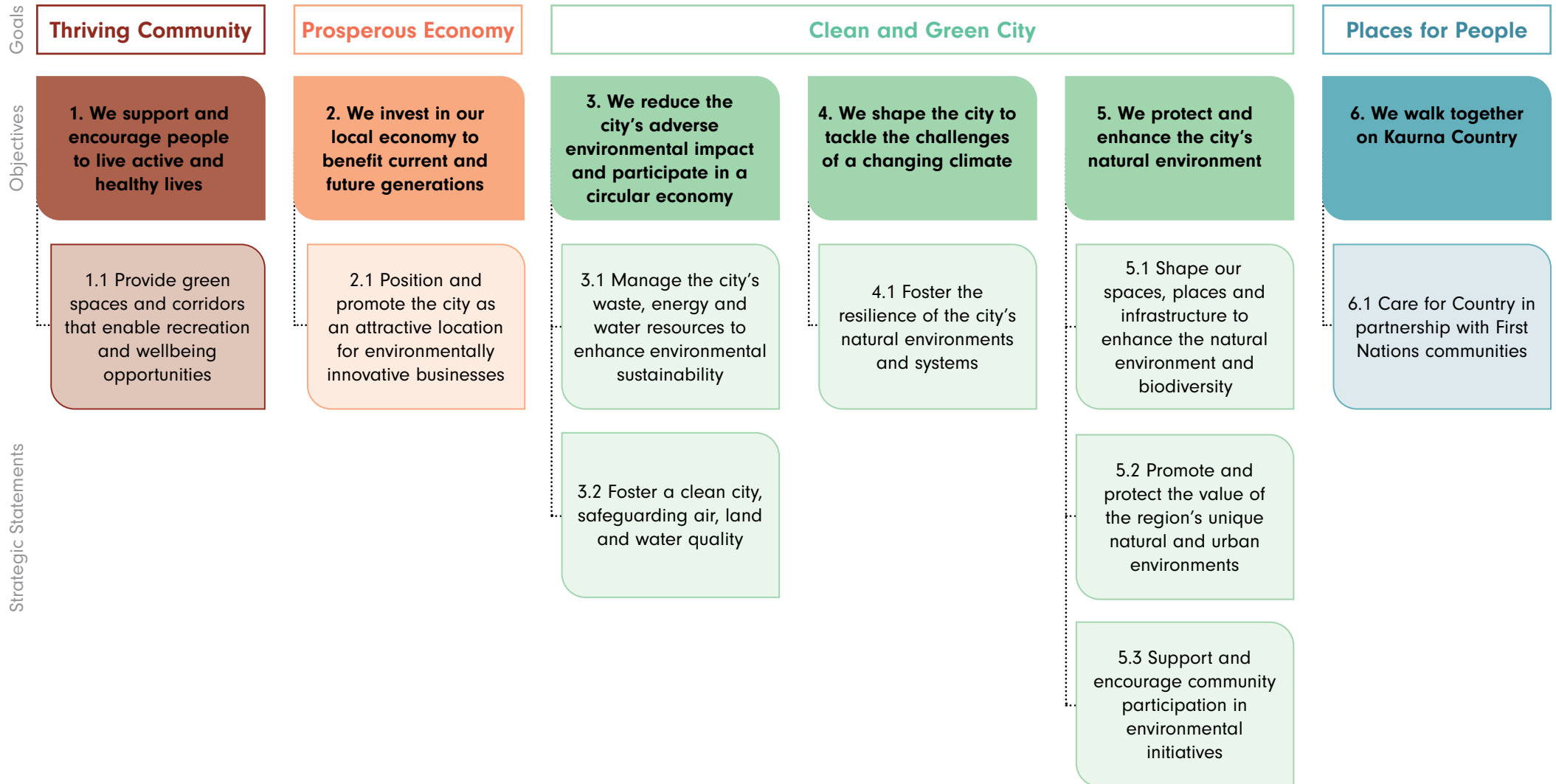
We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we stand, the Kaurna People of the Adelaide Plains. It is upon their ancestral lands that the Port Adelaide Enfield Council meets. It is also The Place of the Kardi, the Emu, whose story travels from the coast inland. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We respect their spiritual beliefs and connections to land which are of continuing importance to the living Kaurna people of today. We further acknowledge the contributions and important role that Aboriginal people continue to play within our shared community.

*Artist credit: NHARLA, Colleen Raven, 2024.
Ngapartji Ngapartji roughly translates to 'I give, you give'.*

Clean and Green City Strategy

A city that values its natural environment.

Our City Vision (Appendix 2) and our four strategies shape everything we do at PAE. Our strategies take an integrated approach, in which each strategy picks up a selection of goals and objectives from across the full spectrum of the City Vision. The **Clean and Green City Strategy** picks up six objectives: one from the Thriving Community Goal, one from the Prosperous Economy Goal, three from the Clean and Green City Goal and one from the Places for People Goal. See Appendix 1 for information about the Outcome Indicators that we will use to check that our actions in this strategy are working.



City of PAE's Environmental Planning Structure

Highlights of our plan include our commitments to:

The Living Environment Plan 2026–31 builds on the previous achievements of the Living Environment Strategy 2017–2022 and provides direction for the next five years in line with the City Vision 2024–34 (Appendix 2). Establishing commitments for each of the goals and objectives in the Clean and Green City Strategy (previous page) is the focus of this plan.

The Living Environment Plan is complemented by a suite of three PAE delivery plans and several regional plans developed in partnership with other councils and state agencies, as illustrated in the diagram opposite. The Strategic Management Framework (Appendix 3) provides detail on how these plans work together to deliver our City Vision.

Three Cross-Cutting Considerations have been identified that are relevant to all the PAE delivery and regional plans.

City Vision
A welcoming, liveable City: made by people.

Clean and Green City Strategy

Living Environment Plan 2026–31

PAE Delivery Plans

Integrated Water
Management
Plan
2026–31

Urban
Greening and
Biodiversity Plan
2026–31

Climate
Response
Plan
2026–31

Regional Plans

AdaptWest
Regional Climate
Action Plan 2025–2030

Central Adelaide Waste and
Recycling Authority (CAWRA)
Regional Waste Strategy
Going Circular to 2030

Coastal Hazard Adaptation
Plans (In development)

- Adelaide Beach System
- Port River Barker Inlet System

Cross-Cutting Considerations

Caring for Country
Community Environment Program
Climate Risk



PAE Environment

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield (PAE) is a city of contrasts, combining urban and industrial landscapes with rich natural environments that support biodiversity and cultural heritage. As Kaurna Country, PAE is home to a diverse community committed to sustainability. PAE's natural assets include the Barker Inlet wetlands, Mutton Cove, the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary and the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary/Winaityinaityi Pangkara, alongside coastal dunes, mangroves, samphire habitats, remnant vegetation and freshwater systems like Karrawirra Parri/ River Torrens.

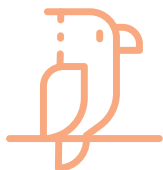
Rapid development, habitat loss and climate change (including hotter temperatures, declining rainfall, extreme weather and rising seas) demand urgent, collaborative action. Together, the council and the community can create a resilient future that safeguards ecosystems while supporting growth and wellbeing.

Through the Clean and Green City Strategy, the Living Environment Plan and the PAE delivery and regional plans, we will work with partners to protect natural spaces, restore biodiversity and build a sustainable future for all.

Jack Watkins Reserve, Kilburn

At a Glance

Community Action



Bird Species

77 bird species were recorded in **115 bird surveys** undertaken at nine council reserves by Citizen Science volunteers during 2024–25

Grow it Local

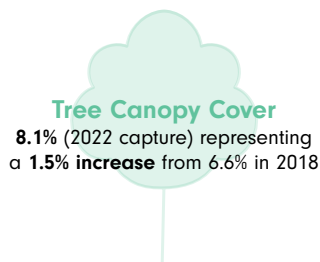
In 2024–25, **1,005 PAE residents** were involved in Grow It Local activities delivered in partnership with Green Adelaide, up from 856 in 2023–24 and 424 in 2022–23



Volunteers

There are **eight community Friends Groups** across PAE who protect and restore our natural environment and ecosystems with support from Green Adelaide

Urban Greening



Tree Canopy Cover

8.1% (2022 capture) representing a **1.5% increase** from 6.6% in 2018

Get Shady Program

Since 2022 we have given away **1,200 trees** to residents for their gardens and paid 119 rebates to residents who purchased their own tree for their garden



Council Tree Planting

Our annual target of **2,500 street trees** and **500 reserve trees** has been exceeded for each of the past four years

Water Use

Council Water Use

Internally, the council uses around **893ML** of potable water and **282ML** of non-potable water each year, around 80% of which is used in our open spaces

City-wide Water Use

Approximately **5,673.5ML of potable water** was used across PAE in 2024–25, with residential customers using 3,997.98ML, non-residential customers using 1,395.46ML and commercial customers using 280.04ML (Source: SA Water)



Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council Emissions

In 2024–25 Scope 1, 2 and select Scope 3 greenhouse emissions from PAE's operations were **reduced by 46%** to 3,852 tCO₂e down from the 2020–21 baseline of 7,168 tCO₂e

City-wide Emissions

Approximately **1,396,400 tCO₂e** were emitted in 2023–24 (Source: Snapshot Climate*)



Rooftop Solar Density

As of December 2025, **approximately 50.8%** of households in PAE have rooftop solar (Source: Australian Photovoltaic Institute)

Waste and Recycling

Kerbside Collections

In 2024–25, **9,155t of recyclables**, **13,538t of organics** and **23,571t** of general waste were collected from 65,147 households via kerbside service. A further 2,258t came from 23,361 booked hard waste collections.



Recycled Roads

12,301t of recycled asphalt were used on roads across PAE in 2024–25, up from 9,703t in 2023–24 and 6,510t in 2022–23



Community Waste Education

37 school and community waste education sessions were held in 2024–25, up from 15 in 2023–24 and 13 in 2022–23

* Snapshot Climate = PAE's emissions profile. See cityofpae.sa.gov.au/environment/our-climate for more information.



Feedback from the Community

The Living Environment Plan is based on research and input from the local community. It aligns with national, state and regional efforts, helping us work with various partners and stakeholders. As the environment and climate change, our plan is flexible to take advantage of new opportunities and reduce risks.

We asked the community how they think the council is performing in delivering various environmental outcomes and received the following feedback:



46% reported that the council manages water and energy resources efficiently and effectively



55% feel that the council values the natural environment



47% are aware of our urban greening, biodiversity and community-based environmental initiatives



30% believe that we are doing enough to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts

44% reported that they believe that council spaces and places are designed to be resilient to future environmental (or climate) conditions



Local resident Claire, who contributed images of her favourite living landscapes to our photographic collection

Taking Action: Our Next Steps

The following pages outline the objectives, strategic statements and commitments of the Living Environment Plan. These objectives address the priorities highlighted by the community, ensuring that we work together to build a clean and green PAE environment. Our commitment to respond to each of these objectives will be addressed in more detail in the suite of delivery plans and regional plans developed to respond to specific environmental themes, as set out in the Environmental Planning Structure (p. 5).

Goals:

Thriving Community

Prosperous Economy

Clean and Green City

Places for People

1.

We support and encourage people to live active and healthy lives



1.1

Provide green spaces and corridors that enable recreation and wellbeing opportunities

Access to green space is vital for healthy, inclusive and climate resilient communities. Historic and current land-use decisions may result in unequal access to quality green spaces.

We are committed to creating opportunities for people to access quality green spaces to support wellbeing, foster connection and help them adapt to a changing climate and environment.

Our commitments:

- Provide and promote opportunities for the local community to be actively involved in protecting and restoring the natural environment, including volunteering opportunities

Specific actions to support this commitment are included in the Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan.

2.

We invest in our local economy to benefit current and future generations



2.1

Position and promote the city as an attractive location for environmentally innovative businesses

Local businesses in PAE are vital to the community, creating jobs and local prosperity. Rising costs and climate pressures such as supply chain disruptions due to extreme weather events are making it harder for them to thrive.

By working together, we can support smarter, more efficient work practices, attract investment to support transitioning to a greener economy and build resilience for a stronger, more sustainable future.

Our commitments:

- Support small to medium enterprises to improve their environmental performance, reduce costs and build resilience to environmental impacts, natural disasters and a changing climate
- Partner with business, industry and government to attract investment in a low-carbon, circular economy and in other sustainable innovations that position the city as a hub for 'green' enterprise
- Provide accessible information and guidance to help businesses meet environmental compliance requirements and adopt sustainable practices, including links to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as well as the council's environmental health functions

3.

We reduce the city's adverse environmental impact and participate in a circular economy



3.1

Manage the city's waste, energy and water resources to enhance environmental sustainability

Improving the efficiency and environmental sustainability of the council's operations is key to ensuring that we minimise adverse environmental impacts from our programs and services.

We actively seek opportunities to enhance environmental outcomes by embedding sustainability into infrastructure, services and decision making. Through conservation, waste reduction and energy efficiency, PAE drives performance, protects ecosystems and partners with the community to foster awareness, innovation and long-term environmental benefit.

Our commitments:

- Deliver a Climate Response Plan that reduces emissions and embeds climate-related risk considerations into the council's decision making and operations
- Deliver an Integrated Water Management Plan that supports a transition to a water sensitive city
- Support delivery of CAWRA's Going Circular to 2030 Regional Waste Strategy
- Promote and enable circular economy practices through our materials recovery practices, infrastructure programs and community education initiatives, including how we reuse recovered materials in civic projects
- Support innovative waste reduction, reuse and recycling solutions and encourage the community, businesses and developers to adopt sustainable practices through education, incentives and practical guidance
- Embed environmental outcomes and climate risk into Asset Management Plans, Stormwater Management Plans and other city-wide plans

3.2

Foster a clean city, safeguarding air, land and water quality

Clean air, water and soils provide the foundation for the healthy environment and ecosystems that we all need to sustain life.

Through sustainable planning, regulation and community partnerships, we are reducing pollution, minimising the community's environmental impact, protecting ecosystems and building a resilient environment for people and native wildlife across PAE.

Our commitments:

- Deliver on regulatory obligations to protect air, land and water quality, including education for the community, businesses and industry to support compliance and prevent pollution
- Partner with the EPA and SA Health to review the Victoria Road Air Quality Study, incorporating our findings into planning, advocacy and education to reduce pollution, improve air quality and support community health
- Advocate for best practice licencing and monitoring of regulated industries to support improved environmental and health outcomes (e.g. air quality, stormwater pollution, site contamination, etc)
- Seek opportunities to partner with research institutions, industry and community organisations to attract programs and projects that address priority environmental issues and opportunities in the region

4.

We shape the city to tackle the challenges of a changing climate



4.1

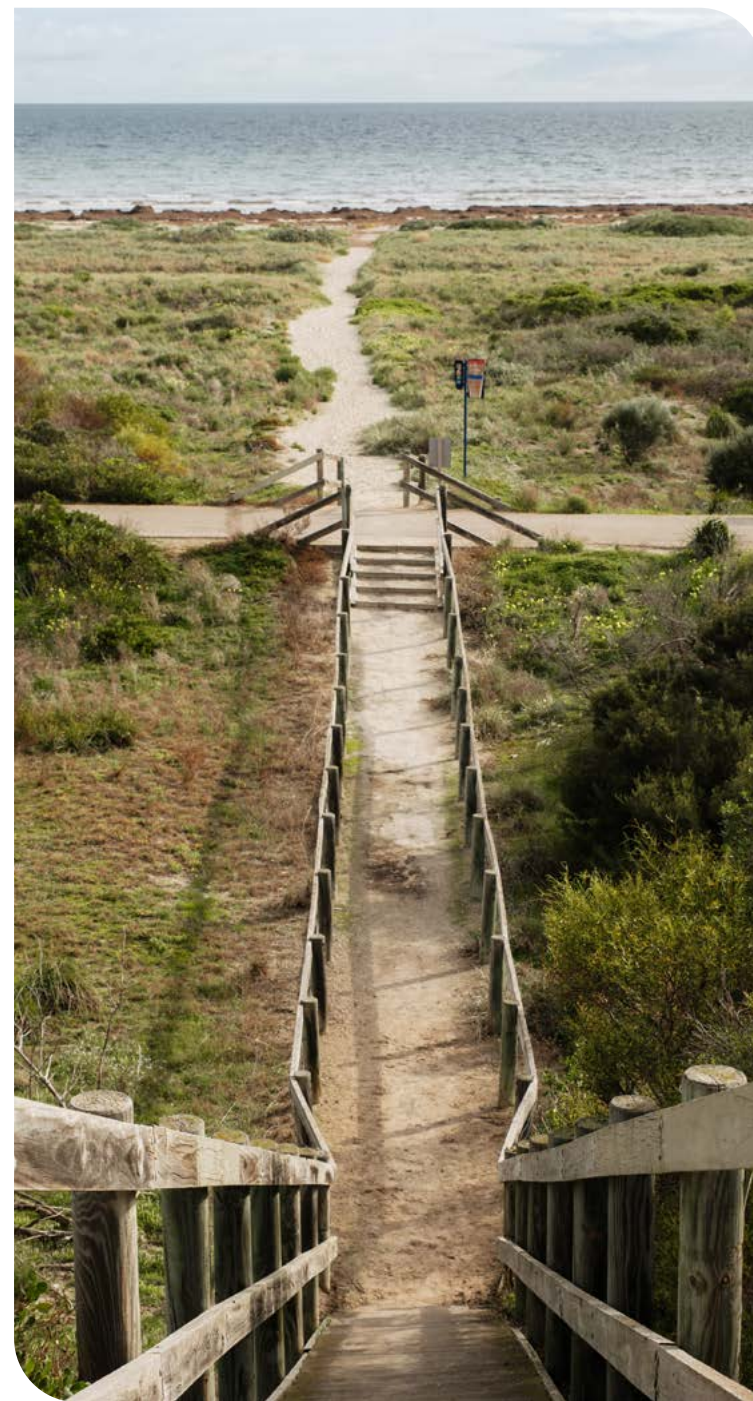
Foster the resilience of the city's natural environments and systems

With South Australia facing hotter, drier conditions and extreme weather, we recognise the importance of partnerships and collaboration to support adaptation actions, safeguard ecosystems and protect communities.

We are committed to fostering strategic relationships to strengthen the resilience of natural environments and systems in response to climate change.

Our commitments:

- Collaborate through the AdaptWest Regional Climate Partnership to build a region that is resilient and adaptive to the impacts of climate change
- Work with researchers and government agencies to improve people's understanding of the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on human health and wellbeing, as well as to inform delivery priorities
- Advocate for climate sensitive urban design, including the use of urban heat mapping, to inform planning, housing design and material choices



5.

We protect and enhance the city's natural environment



5.1 Shape our spaces, places and infrastructure to enhance the natural environment and biodiversity

PAE's spaces, places and infrastructure play an important role in supporting biodiversity, urban cooling and community wellbeing.

We will shape greener, more biodiverse environments by enhancing the tree canopy, restoring habitats and embedding nature into the built environment.

Our commitments:

- Deliver an Urban Greening and Biodiversity Plan that prioritises a healthy natural environment, supports nature in urban design and promotes active greening on both public and private land
- Develop and implement policies and infrastructure solutions that protect biodiversity and embed nature into the built environment
- Maintain and grow a healthy and diverse tree canopy and urban forest to reduce urban heat as well as to improve biodiversity, habitat and amenity across the city

5.2 Promote and protect the value of the region's unique natural and urban environments

PAE's environment includes international and state-significant coastal, wetland, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems which are highly valued by the community.

We are committed to protecting, restoring and celebrating these environments for their contributions to wellbeing, biodiversity and identity, now and into the future.

Our commitments:

- Review and update the Coastal Dune Actions Plan 2022–2027 to respond to changing environmental and climatic conditions and guide the sustainable management of our coastal dune systems
- Conserve and regenerate remnant terrestrial, aquatic and coastal environments, and manage pest plant and animal species to support healthy ecosystems and biodiversity
- Advocate for the protection of natural assets when planning, designing and delivering all major infrastructure, ensuring that environmental values are considered from the outset

5.3 Support and encourage community participation in environmental initiatives

We value the community's passion and knowledge in tackling environmental challenges and we recognise the significant community contribution in protecting and improving our natural environment.

We are committed to empowering residents, businesses and other groups to take part in initiatives, share ideas and advocate for change to build a stronger, more informed movement for environmental action across PAE.

Our commitments:

- Provide Environmental Grants to encourage local initiatives that protect and enhance sustainability and the environment
- Deliver corporate and community programs that improve environmental knowledge and practice while supporting sustainable living and climate action
- Investigate opportunities to increase community participation in targeted renewable energy initiatives

6.

We walk together on Kurna Country



6.1

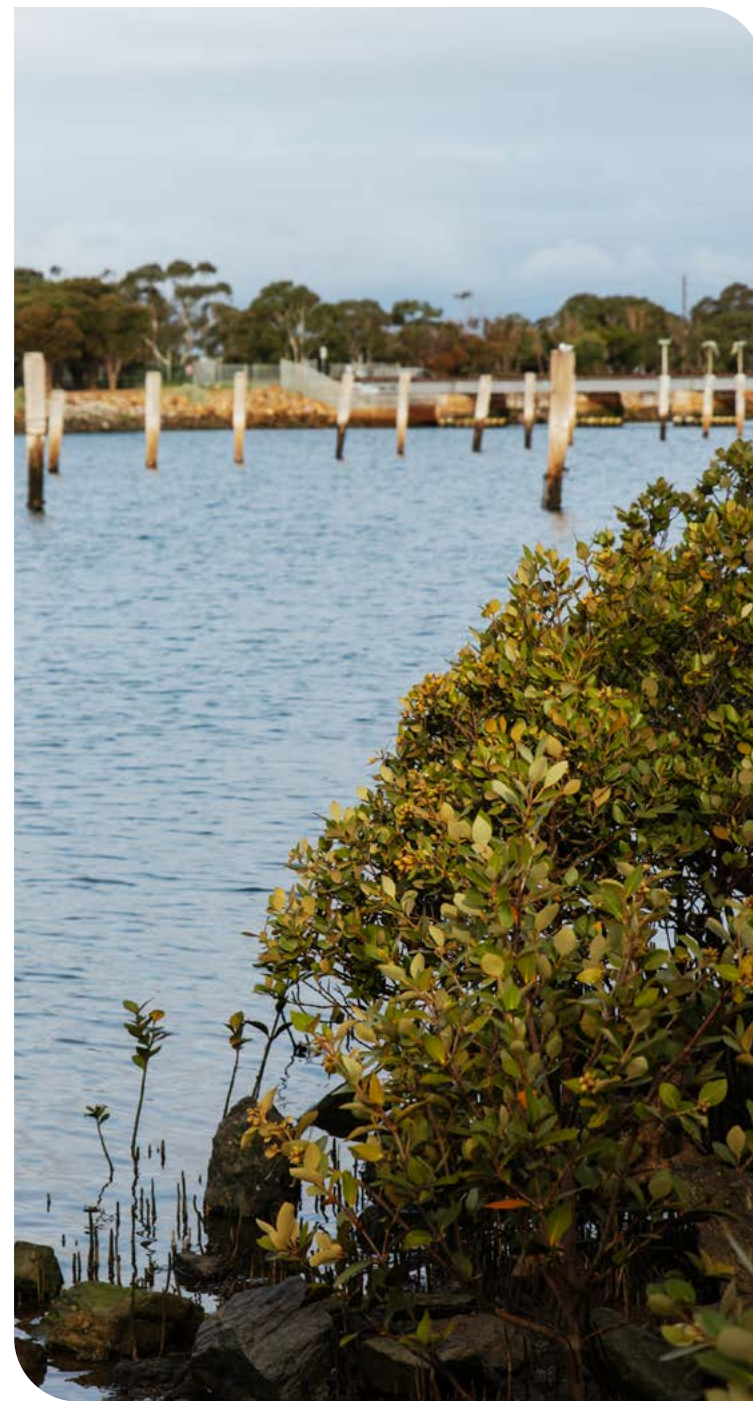
Care for Country in partnership with First Nations communities

The City of PAE lies on Kurna Country and has been cared for by the Kurna People for over 60,000 years. Their deep, spiritual connection to land and water endures today, with places like rivers, coasts and wetlands holding cultural, spiritual and ecological significance.

We are committed to walking together with Kurna and other First Nations communities to care for Country and embed cultural knowledge in environmental action while recognising and respecting First Nations peoples' traditional knowledge and cultural expressions.

Our commitments:

- Work in partnership with the Kurna and the local First Nations community and organisations to embed cultural guidance and support First Nations-led approaches to environmental programs and Caring for Country initiatives
- Continue to support environmental leadership and restoration efforts through Yitpi Yartapuultiku as well as through other community-led initiatives across the city
- Identify culturally significant plant species that reflect Kurna understanding of landscape and seasons and incorporate them into PAE's species lists as guidance for both public and private developments, including aquatic and wetland environments



Glossary: Our Roles

The Living Environment Plan outlines our roles using specific language. The table below provides a glossary of these roles.



Role	Action	Definition
Advocate	Advocate	To lobby and advocate for the community, particularly with other spheres of government, to ensure that the needs and aspirations of the community are being met (for issues outside of PAE's control)
Delivery Partner	Partner	To work in collaboration and partnership with others where appropriate to provide and/or fund services, facilities or programs, so as to achieve the best outcomes for the community
Facilitator	Facilitate	To connect others to meet the needs of the community by providing opportunities or removing barriers that may prevent needs being met
Information Resource	Provide information	To provide a resource for the community and other stakeholders seeking information about the local community and to act as a referral point to other services
Leader	Lead	To identify, set direction, plan and advocate for the needs and aspirations of the community and/or in the development of actions, alone or with others, and to address the community's needs and aspirations (for issues within PAE's control)
Not yet determined	Explore	To explore, investigate or test the feasibility of a potential role or roles where PAE's potential role is unclear
Service Provider	Deliver	To provide direct social/community development opportunities through our facilities, services and programs

Glossary: Technical Terms

The Living Environment Plan uses a few technical terms specific to environmental planning, policy and strategy development. This table provides a glossary of these terms.



Term	Definition
Aquatic	Refers to plants and animals that live in water rather than on land or in the air
Biodiversity	The variety of life in all its forms (plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms), the communities that they form and the habitats in which they live
Caring for Country	A First Nations concept and practice encompassing land management, cultural stewardship, biodiversity care and sustainable use of resources
Circular Economy	A system where materials never become waste and nature is regenerated; products and materials are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling and composting
Climate-related Risk	The potential for harm to humans, infrastructure and natural systems from hazards such as heatwaves, flooding, storms, coastal erosion and sea-level rise
Climate Resilient Infrastructure Program (CRIP)	A co-ordinated program supporting infrastructure planning and design to withstand climate impacts such as heatwaves, flooding, storms, coastal erosion and sea-level rise
Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plan (CHAP)	A plan identifying risks from sea-level rise, erosion and coastal flooding, and how communities and infrastructure can adapt
Environmental Compliance	The act of meeting the requirements of environmental laws, permits and regulations, including those overseen by the EPA or councils
Green Infrastructure	A connected network of green spaces and water systems that provides urban cooling and other benefits to communities (for example, public parks and gardens, private backyards and gardens, waterways and wetlands, streetscapes and transport corridors, roof gardens and living walls)
Integrated Water Management	A co-ordinated approach to planning, managing and using water resources, including rainwater/stormwater, recycled water and potable (drinking) water, to achieve environmental, social and economic benefits



Term	Definition
Keystone Species	Species that have a disproportionately large impact on the structure and function of an ecosystem, whose presence influences which plants and animals can thrive – without which, ecosystems may collapse (for example, predator-prey relationships)
Materials Recovery	The process of extracting and processing recyclable materials from waste streams for reuse in new products or infrastructure
Pest Plant and Animal Species	Non-native or invasive species that out-compete local species and disrupt ecosystems
Sustainable Procurement	The process of purchasing goods and services in ways that consider environmental, social and economic impacts over their lifecycle
Terrestrial	Refers to plants and animals that live on land rather than in water or air
Threatened Ecosystems	An ecological community at risk of collapse due to climate change habitat loss, pollution, development or invasive species
Tidal Mudflats	Coastal areas exposed at low tide that provide nutrient-rich habitat for migratory birds, fish and invertebrates
Tree Canopy	The upper layer of leaves and branches formed by a tree, providing shade, cooling and habitat
Urban Forest	All trees and vegetation across public and private land in an urban area, including parks, streets and yards
Urban Heat Mapping	Spatial mapping that identifies hotter and cooler areas across a region to inform heat-reduction planning
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	An approach to designing urban areas that integrates stormwater management, water conservation, urban cooling and improved water quality

Appendix 1: Outcome Indicators

We have included outcome indicators in the Clean and Green City Strategy and Living Environment Plan to help us check that our actions are working. Since the council is just one of many groups involved in caring for the environment, we have chosen indicators that reflect the combined efforts of everyone. By watching how these indicators change over time, we can adjust our plans, resources and priorities to make sure we keep delivering strong results for the community. We will also create a performance reporting framework to help track progress more closely.

Goal

Thriving Community

Prosperous Economy

Clean and Green City

Places for People

Objective

We support and encourage people to live healthy and active lives

We invest in our local economy to benefit current and future generations

We reduce the city's adverse environmental impact and participate in a circular economy

We shape the city to tackle the challenges of a changing climate

We protect and enhance the city's natural environment

We walk together on Kaurua Country

Strategic Statement

Provide green spaces and corridors that enable recreation and wellbeing opportunities

Position and promote the city as an attractive location for environmentally innovative businesses

Manage the city's waste, energy and water resources to enhance environmental sustainability

Foster a clean city, safeguarding air, land and water quality

Foster the resilience of the city's natural environments and systems

Shape our spaces, places and infrastructure to enhance the natural environment and biodiversity

Promote and protect the value of the region's unique natural and urban environments

Support and encourage community participation in environmental initiatives

Care for Country in partnership with First Nations communities

Outcome Indicator

- Provision of useable open space (sporting open space, recreation parks, golf course, coastal foreshore or linear open space)
- % of respondents reporting good wellbeing

- % of business respondents who report that PAE is a destination of choice to establish and operate a business

- % of respondents who report that the council manages energy and water resources efficiently and effectively
- Tonnes of waste diverted from landfill via kerbside recycling and organics bin collections
- Total municipal emissions

- % of respondents who believe that PAE is doing enough to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts
- % of respondents who report that PAE's spaces and places are designed to be resilient to future environmental (or climate) impacts
- % of land area covered by tree canopy
- Proportion of dwellings with solar installations
- % of urban heat island cover

- % of respondents who feel that the council values the natural environment
- % of respondents who are aware of the council's urban greening, biodiversity and community-based environmental initiatives

- % of respondents who report that PAE helps create a vibrant and culturally rich community through supporting and celebrating First Nations culture and living heritage

Appendix 2: City Vision 2024–34

A welcoming, liveable City: *made by people.*

Vision

Guiding Principles

- Equity and belonging** • Building a better future for all
- Participation** • Listening to the community and involving them in our decision making
- Sustainability** • Managing our environment responsibly and sustainably
- Integrity** • Making informed decisions honestly, transparently and accountably
- Transformative** • Showing courage, foresight and innovation

Goals

Thriving Community

A city where people have the opportunity to connect and flourish

Prosperous Economy

A city with a thriving economy that enriches its local community

Clean And Green City

A city that values its natural environment

Places For People

An accessible city where people love to be

Objectives

We promote community capacity, connection and participation in civic life

We encourage cultural expression and recognise people's history, stories and connection to place

We support and encourage people to live healthy and active lives

We participate in the economy with the community in mind

We support local businesses, big and small, to grow, innovate and succeed

We invest in our local economy to benefit current and future generations

We reduce the city's adverse environmental impact and participate in a circular economy

We shape the City to tackle the challenges of a changing climate

We protect and enhance the City's natural environment

We walk together on Kaurua country

We shape the city to be attractive and liveable and care for our cultural and built heritage

We bring places to life through community events, culture, design and the arts

Enablers

Organisational Capability

- Our diverse workforce is resourced to deliver meaningful outcomes
- Our systems, processes and tools are contemporary and reflect leading practice
- Our assets and finances are managed with good stewardship



Appendix 3: Our Strategic Management Framework

Our Strategic Management Framework (opposite) demonstrates how our suite of plans deliver on our long-term City Vision.

The City Vision sets our long-term strategic direction. It identifies the key goals and objectives that we will work towards delivering over 10 years. The City Vision informs other more detailed strategies and plans. We have also developed a Four-Year Business Plan that shows how we intend to deliver our City Vision in the medium term.

Our Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plan outline how we will resource our strategies and plans. Each financial year we develop our Annual Business Plan, which sets out the priorities, activities and budget to demonstrate how rates payments contribute to services and programs we deliver that benefit the whole community. Regular performance monitoring and reporting demonstrate that we deliver on our commitments and are accountable to the community.

