Ten years ago, Mornington Peninsula Shire, with the active involvement of local communities, made a Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula, to work towards achieving outcomes – in everything we do – that would be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable.

That Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula has guided everything that the Shire has done since then.

Now, ten years on, it’s time to measure our progress, to be accountable to the community who have supported and contributed to the Shire’s work.

In the following pages we:

• explain how the Shire applies sustainability principles to policy development and implementation;
• identify our Sustainability Objectives across a range of important service delivery areas, and;
• measure our progress against those objectives.

To continue to improve, we need your input.
If you would like to comment on any of the issues raised in this booklet – or require more information, please contact the Shire on 1300 850 600 or 5950 1000, website: www.mornpen.vic.gov.au, or via email: custserv@mornpen.vic.gov.au

What does a “Sustainable Peninsula” mean?
Council understands that the needs and priorities of our communities vary greatly, and they can sometimes be in conflict as we pursue a range of important social, economic and environmental goals, such as:

• How we best care for our highly valued natural environment whilst providing meaningful employment and agricultural opportunities.
• How we protect and enhance our rural and coastal character whilst facilitating appropriate development.

For example, let’s look at how the principles of a Sustainable Peninsula are applied when considering commercial developments in rural areas.

70% of the Mornington Peninsula is included in the non urban ‘Green Wedge’ – the rural ‘heart’ of the Peninsula. The land supports and sustains a range of long-term values in terms of conservation and recreation, but it is also a significant contributor to the Peninsula’s economy with agricultural production worth more than $650 million annually.

By applying the principles of a Sustainable Peninsula, Council is able to identify potential conflicts early, and develop appropriate strategies and plans to deliver sustainable solutions.

For example:
• Ensuring that dwellings used for rural living or lifestyle farming (social), do not compromise the agricultural value of the Peninsula (economic);
• Balancing the demand for tourism (social and economic), while protecting and enhancing the natural environment (environment);
• Using resources to protect and enhance the habitat value of the Peninsula (environment), while at the same time reducing the risk of bushfire to life and property (social and economic).

Our Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula provides the framework to address these challenges and achieve sustainable outcomes.
OUR GREEN WEDGE

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environment:
• Maintaining 70% of the Peninsula as Green Wedge to ensure the Peninsula remains rural in nature.
• Identifying and protecting the natural systems and biodiversity of the Peninsula.
• Managing environmental risks such as bushfire, land erosion and salinity.

Economic:
• Supporting sustainable agricultural activities and production in the Green Wedge.
• Protecting and building on the important role the Green Wedge has in attracting visitors to our region.
• Supporting appropriate tourism opportunities within the Green Wedge.

Social:
• Protecting the landscape and cultural heritage values of the Green Wedge.
• Encouraging use of the Green Wedge for recreational purposes.
• Providing services and facilities for dispersed rural communities and landholders.

OUR PROGRESS

• Securing an Urban Growth Boundary and the introduction of the Green Wedge Zone to ensure the Peninsula remains 70% rural in nature.
• A comprehensive agricultural audit of the Peninsula, revealing an annual value of agricultural production of more than $650 million.
• Completion of high quality native vegetation mapping and a comprehensive fauna atlas to support the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan.
• Successful advocacy for the declaration of the Peninsula as part of the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere program.
• Strengthening our planning controls and local laws to protect the landscape and environmental values of the Green Wedge.

• Preparation and implementation of Bushland Reserve Management Plans for more than 100 reserves and management of native vegetation on more than 220 km of roadside reserves.
• Water quality monitoring and improvement through the Water Watch program.
• Providing on site advice to rural landowners and active support for Landcare and Catchment Groups in programs across the Peninsula.
• Supply of Class A recycled water to the Boneo sands intensive agricultural area.
• Higher standards of management and maintenance of more than 400 kilometres of rural roads.
• Introduction of a Land Sustainability Rate to assist land owners in the Green Wedge to protect and enhance their land through activities including weeding, tree planting and pest control.
• Development of the Dwellings in the Green Wedge Policy to ensure housing in our Green Wedge is consistent with the agricultural and conservation uses of our Green Wedges.
• Development of an interim Green Wedge Management Plan and advocacy with the state government to protect the rural nature of our Green Wedge.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Protecting high agricultural value land - for the Peninsula to contribute to the nation’s demand for clean food and fibre.
• Attracting and supporting appropriate tourism opportunities within the Green Wedge.
• Managing population growth while conserving the biodiversity and landscapes of the Peninsula.
• Managing increasing environmental risks such as bushfire, land erosion and salinity.
OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environment:
• Maintaining more than 70% of the Peninsula as rural.
• Encouraging Environmentally Sustainable Design for all new developments.

Economic:
• Promoting the character and charm of our 40 towns and villages to visitors.
• Supporting local business with mentoring and marketing assistance.
• Investing in township plans and major streetscape works to enhance the functionality and attractiveness of major activity centres and local townships.

Social:
• Maintaining the unique character and charm of our individual towns and villages in the face of growing development pressures.
• Respecting and celebrating the heritage and history of our towns and villages.
• Providing a range of services and facilities to promote a strong ‘sense of place’ among residents and reduce social isolation.
• Facilitating housing diversity to enable people to live close to facilities and public transport.

OUR PROGRESS

• Protecting the character and charm of our towns and villages through development of Township Character Plans in Mornington, Rosebud, Flinders, Shoreham, McCrae, Tyabb, Rye and Crib Point. Work has also commenced on plans for Hastings, Somerville, Bittern, Mount Eliza, Dromana and Red Hill.

• Completion of major streetscape improvement programs in commercial areas of towns and villages including Mornington, Hastings, Rosebud, Mount Eliza, Dromana and Sorrento.

• Completion of the Mornington Peninsula Activity Centres Strategy which identifies the role and function of each settlement on the Peninsula and provides for future growth.

• Setting out a clear direction for the future use and development of our towns, including height restrictions on new developments, through the completion of Major Activity Centre Structure Plans for Mornington and Rosebud.

• Completion of the Triple A Housing Strategy and the adoption of the Housing Developments for Older People – Good Practice Guide and the Social and Affordable Housing Policy.

• Ensuring the heritage of our townships is recognised and protected by the completion of a new shire wide Thematic History and the progressive review of heritage protection controls.

• Completion of the Southern Regional Housing Statement which provides clear estimates of future housing demand and the locations to accommodate future housing.

• Establishment of the Design Advisory Panel (group of professional urban designers) to provide independent advice to Council and to promote good design through the review of development proposals.

• The maintenance and extension of Design and Development Overlays to protect the character of our residential areas.

• Preparation of Sustainable Development “fact files” to provide user friendly information on Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) to improve the environmental performance of new development.

• Provision for additional housing diversity around activity centres through the approval of applications and amendments that are consistent with structure plans and demonstrate good design.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Maintaining the unique character and charm of our individual towns and villages in the face of growing development pressures.

• Maintaining local control of planning to secure our vision for the Peninsula in the face of state planning policies that are looking to speed up the process and make it easier for developers to obtain planning approval.

• Strengthening local planning controls to protect the Peninsula.

• Managing population growth while protecting our towns and villages and conserving the biodiversity and landscapes of the Peninsula.
OUR COAST

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environment:
• Protecting and enhancing the 190 km of coastline which surrounds our Shire.
• Reducing the environmental impact of human activity, while facilitating public use and enjoyment of our coast.

Economic:
• Supporting coast-related businesses and activities such as tourism, the marine industry and port-related development.
• Protecting community infrastructure from extreme weather events and future sea level rise.
• Advocating to other levels of government for increased levels of funding for coastal infrastructure.

Social:
• Supporting a range of recreational and social activities on our coast.
• Encouraging understanding of our coastal ecosystems.
• Promoting the use of ‘net community benefit’ in assessing proposals for the use of coastal areas.

OUR PROGRESS:
• Protecting and improving our foreshores through the development of seven long-term Coastal Management Plans.
• Direct management of 10 foreshore reserves, and support to three local Coastal Committees of Management for the ongoing management of foreshore reserves.
• Upgrading four amenity blocks and the installation of new washers and dryers throughout foreshore camping reserves.
• A clearer, transparent booking service for foreshore camping which has encouraged new campers to our reserves.
• Managing a 13% increase in the number of people camping on our foreshores since the Shire took over the management from Parks Victoria in 2008.
• Supporting and assisting ‘Friends Groups’ and 10 Foreshore Advisory Groups.
• Ongoing management and maintenance of six boat ramps across the Shire.
• The provision and maintenance of paths as part of the popular ‘Bay Trail’ and other walks.
• Assisting the Dromana Bay Lifesaving Club to establish new clubrooms on the Dromana foreshore.
• Building new infrastructure on our foreshores including BBQs, public toilets, seating and playgrounds.
• Completion of a number of important long-term coastal management plans, including:
  ° Mount Eliza to Point Nepean Coastal Action Plan,
  ° Sorrento Recreational Boating Precinct Plan,
  ° Flinders Pier and Foreshore Planning,
  ° Mount Eliza Foreshore Reserve Coastal Management Plan,
  ° Mount Martha Coastal Management Plan,
  ° Rosebud Foreshore Coastal Management Plan, and
  ° Rye Recreational Boating Precinct Plan.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:
• Protecting our foreshores and community infrastructure from increasing storm frequency and intensity.
• Managing increasing demand while minimising the impact of human activity on our foreshores.
• Encouraging appropriate economic activity on our foreshores.
OUR CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Sustainability objectives:

Environment:
• Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and highly valued landscapes.
• Protecting the community from future storm, flood, fire and drought events of increasing intensity.
• Reducing our impact on the environment and being smarter in how we use non-renewable natural resources.

Economic
• Strengthening the local economy and building our capacity to deal with the risk of increasing storm, flood, fire and drought.
• Securing sustainable access to water for the Peninsula’s agricultural producers.
• Protecting and improving our natural environment, ensuring it remains healthy and attractive for our community and visitors.

Social
• Raising community awareness of the potential impacts of climate change.
• Protecting our most vulnerable residents from increasing storm, flood, fire and drought events.
• Preparing for and responding to emergency situations.

OUR PROGRESS:

• A 71% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
• The use of green energy in all Shire buildings and street lights.
• The introduction of a 10-year, $30 million drainage strategy to protect high risk areas from flooding.
• Converting methane gas from the Rye Landfill into electricity to power around 1400 homes each year.
• The introduction of recycled water schemes to the Mount Martha Golf Course, Emil Madsen Reserve, Mornington and Boneo. This Class A water is used to irrigate sporting fields and by vegetable growers on the Southern Peninsula.
• Retrofitting community buildings to include Environmentally Sustainable Design features and other energy and water-saving devices such as solar panels and water tanks.
• A 60% reduction in potable water use.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

• Retrofitting existing infrastructure to address the impacts of increasing frequency and intensity of major storm, flood, fire and drought events.
• Managing the balance between the preservation of our natural environment and sustainable economic development, including tourism.
• Continuing to reduce our water and energy use.
• Reducing the vulnerability of our coast from extreme storm events and predicted sea level rise.
• Assisting our most vulnerable residents during extreme weather events such as heatwaves.

• The installation of drought-tolerant grass on sporting fields, reducing water use and ensuring a consistent year-round playing surface.
• Coordination of Community Group Buy Schemes for water tanks, solar hot water systems and solar power.
• Ongoing community education and engagement, including the successful Climate Change Conversations in 2008 which attracted more than 3000 participants.
• Regular community workshops at The Eco Living Display Centre at The Briars attracting more than 3000 participants each year.
• Support and assistance to more than 50 bushland ‘friends’ groups for the care and enhancement of bushland reserves.
• A 49% increase in recycling across the Shire.

Recycle 49%
OUR ACTIVE COMMUNITY

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environment
• Reducing the impact of human activity on the natural environment while encouraging the use and enjoyment of our Green Wedge and open spaces.
• Encouraging community participation in the long-term care of our natural environment.

Economic:
• Facilitating events and activities which showcase the Peninsula’s natural attractions to visitors.
• Reducing the cost to the community associated with ill-health and disease.

Social:
• Providing a diverse range of activities and facilities which respond to changing community needs and aspirations.
• Encouraging greater participation in recreational and social activities.
• Ensuring equity of access for all in the community.

OUR PROGRESS:

• The opening of new community facilities including the Pelican Park Recreation Centre, Mornington Library, Safety Beach Community Centre, Red Hill Sports Pavilion and Sorrento Community Centre.
• The construction of new Community Hubs in East Mornington, Hastings and Rosebud West/Rosebud.
• The refurbishment of the former Mornington Secondary College to create the 420-seat Peninsula Community Theatre, The Studio@PCT and the new home for Radio Port Phillip (RPP-FM 98.7).
• The upgrading of six senior citizens centres (Mornington, Dromana, Blairgowrie, Rye, Sorrento, Balnarring) and 12 community halls (Mount Eliza, PCT, The Studio@PCT, Mount Martha House, Blairgowrie, Sorrento, Somerville, Baxter, Tyabb, Hastings, Boneo, Somers).
• The commencement of long-term Community and Neighbourhood Renewal programs to address social disadvantage in Rosebud West and Hastings.
• The construction of more than 100 km of new paths and shared trails.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Reducing the impact of expanding recreational activities on our natural environment.
• Managing the increasing demand for access to facilities and open space.
• Planning for new and emerging activities requiring specialist infrastructure such as mountain biking.

• The introduction of a long-term $49M Pavilion Strategy to upgrade sporting pavilions and clubrooms across the Shire.
• Long-term master plans for the redevelopment of sporting and recreational reserves including Civic Reserve, Mornington, Olympic Park Reserve, Rosebud, Red Hill Recreation Reserve, David McFarlan Reserve, Balnarring Recreation Reserve and Somerville Recreation Reserve.
• The construction of seven new skate parks and the introduction of two portable ramps.
• The upgrading of more than 40 playgrounds as part of the long-term Play Peninsula Strategy.
• The construction of 12 new playgrounds including Mornington, Mount Martha, Rosebud, Rosebud West, Tyabb, Hastings and Balnarring
• An average of 650 community events and festivals each year.
• The development of an innovative Best Practice Events Kit to assist and support organisers of community and public events.
• The establishment of 76 Dog Leash-Free exercise areas across the Shire.
• The establishment of an Aboriginal Support and Development Team and Aboriginal Consultative Committee.
• A 46% increase in library membership and a 32% increase in loans.
A SAFER COMMUNITY

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environment:
• Protecting our natural environment from the threat of bushfire.
• Keeping the Peninsula clean.

Economic:
• Ensuring local business practices are safe and sustainable.
• Protecting and promoting the Peninsula’s reputation as a safe family holiday destination.

Social:
• Providing safe access to services, facilities and attractions including recreational open space.
• Providing a range of public health programs to keep our community healthy such as immunisation, maternal and child health services and food safety inspections.

OUR PROGRESS:

• Responding to approximately 12,000 safety-related issues each year including dog attacks, structural fires, asbestos removal, building issues and infrastructure inspections.
• The introduction of comprehensive Road (DriveSafe) and Bicycle Safety (RideSafe) Strategies and funding improvements to our road and bicycle networks.
• The introduction of the Peninsula Safer Speeds program to reduce speed and improve safety on roads with a high accident history.
• Raising maintenance standards by 36% over the past decade.
• The successful introduction of a ‘No Entertainment – No Nonsense’ approach to reduce anti-social behaviour on New Year’s Eve on the Peninsula.
• An average of 2,000 food safety inspections per year.
• An average of 4,000 fire inspections on private land each year.

4,000 inspections per year

• A doubling of the bushfire prevention budget to $4M per year.
• The development of an Alcohol and Drug Parents’ Resource Kit, distributed to parents of all year 7 students on the Peninsula.
• Improving safety in entertainment areas and reducing alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, through the development of two Liquor Accords in partnership with police, licensed operators and the community.
• Assisting the Mornington Chamber of Commerce to obtain funding for the installation of CCTV cameras which are directly linked to the local police station.
• Assisting our most vulnerable residents during extended periods of extreme weather through the development of a comprehensive Heat Wave Strategy.
• The formation of a partnership with the City of Frankston and Victoria Police to lease two Police vehicles to conduct regular patrols of the region with the aim of reducing and preventing crime, increasing Police visibility and improving community engagement.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

• Managing the balance between environmental care and bushfire prevention works.
• Responding to increasing emergency events resulting from more intense weather events.
• Protecting our townships while encouraging social and entertainment activities.
• Increasing the community’s capacity to ‘self-manage’ in emergency events.
FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES:

Environment:
• Maintaining a clean and healthy environment where children and families can grow and develop.
• Developing long-term strategies for the provision and enhancement of open space.

Economic:
• Facilitating meaningful employment and educational opportunities on the Peninsula.
• Assisting our young people to achieve their full potential and to participate in meaningful employment or education.

Social:
• Recognising the critical importance of the early years in the social, emotional and intellectual development of our youngest community members.
• Encouraging participation in a broad range of social and recreational activities.

OUR PROGRESS:

• 27% increase in child immunisations.
• 58% increase in pre-school enrolments.
• Supporting preschools across the Peninsula to increase the number of hours of preschool to 15 hours a week for all children.
• Ongoing support and coordination of Family Day Care, a high quality home-based child care service providing childcare in the homes of selected Early Childhood Educators.
• The introduction of a range of programs targeting the Early Years including Best Start, Let’s Read, Communities that Care® and Literacy Villages to give children the best possible start in life.
• Providing formal training in hospitality to more than 400 young people through the Pelican Pantry training café in Hastings.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

• Meeting the increased demands for Preschool services with the introduction of the National Early Years Reforms that aims to increase participation.
• Encouraging greater employment and tertiary education opportunities on the Mornington Peninsula.
• Encouraging greater participation in social, recreational and sporting activities among our young people.

• The establishment of traineeships in planning, tourism and general administration, providing opportunities for up to 35 young Peninsula residents each year.
• The establishment of Youth Centres in Hastings (Shedeleven) and Rosebud (YLounge) with qualified youth workers offering professional advice, support and advocacy for young people.
• An average work experience intake of 100 places per year.
• Advocating and securing improvements to the range and breadth of tertiary courses available at Chisholm TAFE and Monash University (Frankston campus).
• The establishment of a Young Parents facebook group to facilitate connections and minimise the social isolation often experienced by young parents.
• The development of a range of online spaces, such as facebook and Myspace, to engage with at-risk youth.
• An annual Careers and Jobs Expo promoting local career opportunities to between 1500 and 2000 local secondary college students.
SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES:

Environment:
• Maintaining a clean and healthy environment which encourages a healthy lifestyle.

Economic:
• Providing access to affordable services for our growing ageing population.
• Providing opportunities for our elders to make positive contributions to the local economy.

Social:
• Providing opportunities for our elders to remain physically and socially active in the community.
• Supporting our elders to ‘age-in place’ with a range of support services and assistance.

OUR PROGRESS:
• Supporting more than 9,000 older people and people with disabilities to remain living at home safely and independently each year by delivering:
  ° 167,000 hours of home/personal/respite care (an increase of 62,000 hours over the past 10 years),
  ° 4,064 comprehensive ‘living at home’ assessments to develop care plans to support clients’ independence and functional capacity (an increase of 1,314 assessments),
  ° 4,500 hours of home maintenance and modifications,
  ° 9,300 community transport passenger trips,
  ° 6,000 hours of activity programs, and
  ° 86,000 delivered meals.

• Supporting 18 Senior Citizens Clubs, including six from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
• Establishment of the Peninsula Advisory Committee of Elders (PACE) to provide advice to Council on draft policies and strategies which have the potential to impact on our elders.
• Extensive community consultation to develop a Positive Ageing Strategy, including:
  ° Ongoing identification of vulnerable clients and the provision of assistance to develop their own personal emergency management plans for bushfire or heatwave events (in the absence of family members to assist), and
  ° Providing a program of activities for residents with a physical, intellectual, cognitive or sensory disability through the establishment of the Adult Day Activity Support Service.

FUTURE CHALLENGES
• Keeping pace with increased demand for support services from an ageing and much higher-than-average older population.
• Providing quality services in the face of State and Commonwealth funding shortfalls and the increasing cost of service delivery.
• Addressing the skills and labour shortages in community care worker and assessment sectors.
• Managing the increasing complexity of care requirements for our elders.
GETTING AROUND SUSTAINABLY

SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES:

Environment:
• Increasing sustainable transport options and reducing CO2 emissions.
• Reducing the impact on natural systems resulting from the run-off from unmade roads.

Economic:
• Improving access to employment and education for our residents.
• Facilitating opportunities for our residents to work closer to home.
• Improving access to the Mornington Peninsula for tourists.
• Increasing the efficiency of freight movements for local businesses.

Social:
• Increasing access to and equity in the provision of affordable public transport.
• Improving access to social activities and facilities by increasing transport options such as walking and cycling.
• Promoting active lifestyles through improved footpaths and safer roads that are people friendly.

OUR PROGRESS:

• Achieving, through determined advocacy, a doubling of public transport services on the Mornington Peninsula, including:
  ° Mornington bus services (routes 781, 784 & 785) extended to 6am-9pm weekdays, 8am-9pm Saturdays and (new) Sundays 9am-9pm (2008).
  ° Portsea to Frankston bus service (route 788) extended to midnight on weekdays and new weekend services.
  ° Flinders/Balnarring/Hastings/Frankston bus services (routes 782 and 783) extended to 9pm weekdays with new weekend services (2007).
  ° Nightrider late-night bus services from Melbourne to Rosebud on Friday and Saturday evenings (2006).
• The introduction of Sprinter Trains and a 36% increase to services on the Stony Point Line.

• Delivering a 10% increase in road maintenance and rehabilitation, at no extra cost to ratepayers, under the innovative, long-term Safer Local Roads (SLR) contract.
• The construction of more than 100 km of new paths and shared trails.
• The construction of more than 20 km of unmade roads, providing safer conditions and reducing the amount of storm run-off into the bay.
• The installation of more than 100 new disabled-access bus stops throughout the municipality.
• The introduction of comprehensive Road (DriveSafe) and Bicycle Safety (RideSafe) Strategies and funding improvements to our road and bicycle networks.
• Reducing speed and improving safety on our roads with a high accident history through the introduction of the Peninsula Safer Speeds program.
• The introduction of the innovative L2P program, where volunteers assist Learner drivers to obtain the necessary driving experience and hours required before taking the Probationary Licence test.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Balancing the demand for more paths and shared trails with the community’s capacity and willingness to pay.
• Improving public and community transport services.
• Meeting the access and mobility needs of our diverse population.
• Accelerating the sealing of unmade roads to improve public safety and reduce environmental impacts.
SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

Environmental:
• Minimising the impact of business and industry on our natural environment.
• Encouraging environmentally sustainable business practices.

Economic:
• Facilitating meaningful employment opportunities throughout the municipality.
• Attracting businesses and services which add to our economic viability.

Social:
• Providing a range of services and activities for our residents and visitors.
• Fostering a sense of pride through the provision of meaningful employment opportunities.

OUR PROGRESS:

Supporting our $850 million per year tourism industry through Mornington Peninsula Tourism (MPT) by:
° coordinating cooperative marketing campaigns to market our region nationally and internationally,
° focusing on marketing the Peninsula as a year round destination which now attracts between four and five million visitors each year, and
° conducting major events to showcase our Peninsula’s attractions.

Assisting our $650 million per year agricultural industry through:
° securing recycled water for vegetable growers on the southern Peninsula, and
° conducting an agricultural audit to provide an up-to-date overview of the local economy identify opportunities.

$650M per year supporting local agriculture

FUTURE CHALLENGES

• Ensuring sustainable access to water for agricultural production.
• Helping our local economy to remain resilient and robust in uncertain economic times.
• Attracting more permanent jobs for our residents.
Reducing fire and flood risk, upgrading our network of roads, paths, public buildings, facilities and recreational space, and addressing a wide range of social needs can all come at significant financial cost.

In delivering more sustainable, more responsive services, the Shire has been both innovative and ‘mean with a quid’, continuously improving processes and identifying ‘new approaches to old problems’, to save millions of dollars and keep Shire rate levels among the lowest in Victoria.

This focus on innovation and optimising value for money is applied to everything we do, evidenced by:

•   Proven savings of more than $4 million per year through the innovative 15-year Safer Local Roads partnership contract;
•  Projected added value of a further $4 million per year through Council’s recently approved SiMS2 10-year infrastructure maintenance contracts;
•  Delivering more than 250 capital works projects over the past five years with no project failures or significant over-runs, at an aggregate cost within 0.08% of total projected cost; and
•  Utilising digital and online technology to improve accessibility to a wide range of services and information, allowing residents to interact with the Shire on a 24/7 basis, and reducing the need to visit Shire customer service locations.

OUR PROGRESS:

•   Providing relatively high levels of service and infrastructure at rate levels which are the fifth lowest in Victoria.
•  Consistently generating underlying surpluses on our operations over the past decade.
•  Receiving a ‘Low Risk’ rating by the Victorian Auditor General - the best possible rating available.
•  Ranking in the top five in the state for our public liability, professional indemnity systems and for Commercial Crimes systems.
•  Extensive and ongoing engagement with our community - at both a local and whole-of-Peninsula level, including:
  °   monthly community Council meetings in different townships throughout the Shire, and
•  Extensive use of ‘in-field’ technology such as iPads and other mobile devices to provide more accurate and up-to-date condition reports on community infrastructure and roads.
•  Closing the infrastructure renewal gap (one of only a minority of Victorian Councils to have done so) ensuring our community infrastructure and assets are being sustainably managed for future generations.
•  Receiving numerous Best Practice Awards for our programs and strategies, including:
  ◦   the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Excellence for Innovative Service for our Safer Local Roads contract,
  ◦   the Local Government Professionals Excellence in Sustainability Award, and
  ◦   Pelican Park has been awarded the Platinum Pool status by Life Saving Victoria for four years in a row, and took out the Victorian Aquatic and Recreation Centre of the Year award in 2011.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

•  Maintaining our low rate levels over the long-term.
•  Improving services and reducing costs through the clever use of technology.
•  Maximising the level of state and Commonwealth funding for the Shire.
•  Minimising the impact of cost-shifting from other levels of government.
The idea of the Shire working to achieve outcomes that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable is strongly supported by the Mornington Peninsula community.

The community was actively engaged in the development of our Sustainability Framework and has regularly consulted, at a local and ‘whole of Peninsula’ level, as we have progressively implemented our Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula.

The community has provided input into a wide range of specific policy issues, from the impacts of climate change through to protecting our coastline and the Green Wedge, and the appropriate development of our townships.

Translating our Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula into ‘results on the ground’ is complex and challenging, given the varied values and challenges of local communities, and the potential conflicts between some social, economic and environmental objectives.

This booklet has provided a wide range of examples of the progress that has been made over 10 years in delivering truly sustainable outcomes.

Our Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula has guided everything the Shire has done over the past 10 years, and will continue to guide Shire policy and strategy as set out in the Shire’s Strategic Plan.

Here are some simple questions and answers which seek to explain the Shire’s commitment to creating a Sustainable Peninsula.

Q. What does ‘Committed to a Sustainable Peninsula’ mean?
A. It is a statement of commitment by the Council and Shire to work with the community to achieve outcomes that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.

Q. Why is that important?
A. The Shire undertakes a very wide and diverse range of functions and activities, all of which are connected, and some of which are potentially in conflict, as we pursue our social, environmental and economic goals. Through our focus on sustainability we identify and seek to resolve those conflicts and achieve sustainable outcomes.

Q. What does ‘sustainability’ mean?
A. Set out below are some key aspects of sustainability, largely drawn from the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

A sustainable environment:
° minimises the use of non-renewable resources and the generation of waste,
° improves water, soil and air quality,
° reduces impacts on climate change, and
° prevents the loss of biodiversity.

A sustainable economy:
° is competitive and able to adapt to change over the longer term,
° provides meaningful employment for all who seek it, and
° provides fair access to economic resources.

A sustainable community
° is safe,
° is healthy,
° has vibrant and diverse networks of support,
° provides fair access to services, facilities and transport, and
° encourages active citizenship and inclusive local democracy.

Q. How will the Shire assess sustainability, what are the tools Council will use?
A. With such a complex concept, no one measuring stick can be used. The Shire measures a wide array of things across social, economic and environmental areas. Youth unemployment, school retention rates, remnant vegetation and so on are continually monitored. This helps the Council to analyse the benefits and results of sustainable initiatives. The Shire will also continue to consult the community to assist Council in identifying areas of importance and to provide an opportunity for community feedback on current initiatives.

Q. Where to now?
A. To meet our Commitment to a Sustainable Peninsula, the Shire is continually working towards developing and implementing a number of initiatives. These initiatives are constantly evolving and your input and ideas into how we can make this happen is sought at every opportunity. This booklet outlines a number of different initiatives that are taking place under the social, economic development and environmental areas.

To continue to improve, we need your input. If you would like to comment on any of the issues raised in this booklet, please contact the Shire on: 5950 1000, website: www.mornpen.vic.gov.au, or via email: custserv@mornpen.vic.gov.au