



# Climate Action Plan

## 2025 - 2027



MacKinnon Nature Reserve at Mooramong, by Alyce McCue.

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*The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.*



# Our Position

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (NTAV) understands that the climate and biodiversity crisis is the single biggest and fastest growing threat to people, the environment, and cultural heritage worldwide.

We recognise that the adverse impacts of the climate and biodiversity crisis require urgent and coordinated action.

Heritage places and approaches are a critical part of the solution to mitigating climate change. It is therefore crucial that we demonstrate and showcase this through our heritage advocacy work and actions at the places we own and manage.

The National Trust is an established community leader, educator, and custodian of Victoria's heritage. This unique role comes with the responsibility to be a strong voice in climate change mitigation, adaption, and emissions reduction in the heritage and related industries. Through leading by example and sharing what we learn, we aim to create more resilient communities and achieve a safe climate future for everyone.



Heritage Trades Show at Labassa, by Neisha Breen.

# Our Journey

The inaugural NTAV Climate Action Plan (CAP) was launched in 2021. The National Trust and the heritage sector have a unique role to play in contributing knowledge and strategies to help mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis. The lessons of the past are frequently lessons in resilience and adaptation, and these lessons will inform good decision making in the future. Our first CAP provided consistency in our approach to managing our properties and our communication with communities on climate issues.

Our Climate Action Plan Working Group was established to support the implementation of the CAP. The working group was drawn from members of every department at the NTAV including Executives, Property Managers and Officer team members. The success of our CAP 2021-2023 was very much due to the wide representation of the Working Group and the dedication of teams across the NTAV.

Highlights of our CAP journey and achievements to date include:

- Completion of base year Organisational Emissions Audit.
- NTAV joining the Climate Heritage Network.
- Two NTAV recommendations included as additional objectives in the Victorian Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, regarding embodied energy and adaptive reuse of existing heritage buildings.
- NTAV launched the *C My Trees* App at Rippon Lea which shares with the public information about how much carbon is sequestered in the Estate's mature trees and the energy use these trees offset.
- Completion of an energy audit at Mooramong Homestead in Skipton through a Sustainability Victoria grant.
- Consolidation of energy providers across our places to one more cost effective and sustainable supplier.
- Production of a Heritage and Sustainability Webinar Series for the Australian Heritage Festival 2023.
- Identifying and scoping processes and materials that can achieve emission and waste reduction referencing heritage trades practices. These insights are now being shared with the public through workshops and our Heritage Trades Show.

# Our CAP 2025 - 2027

The 2025 - 2027 Climate Action Plan has adopted a Pillars and Principles format. It aligns to the National Trust's Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028 and has a greater focus on the biodiversity crisis by dedicating a pillar with actions directly aimed to address the resilience of our places, objects and ecosystems.

## Our Pillars



Reduce the carbon footprint of our places and organisational operations through sustainable consumption, waste minimisation, clean energy, and resource efficiency.



Integrate conservation practices that will make our heritage places and collections more resilient to the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.






Protect and enhance ecosystems within our care. Advocate for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all communities - and all lifeforms - through the provision and protection of nature.






Botanica Festival at Rippon Lea Estate, by Neisha Breen.



# Our Pillars in Action

	 <b>Decarbonisation, Waste and Reuse Pillar</b>	 <b>Conservation, Resilience and Adaptation Pillar</b>	 <b>Biodiversity, Environment and Wellbeing Pillar</b>
	Reduce the carbon footprint of our places and organisational operations through sustainable consumption, waste minimisation, clean energy, and resource efficiency.	Integrate conservation practices that will make our heritage places and collections more resilient to the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.	Protect and enhance ecosystems within our care. Advocate for improved health and wellbeing outcomes for all communities - and all lifeforms - through the provision and protection of nature.
Principles	Actions	Actions	Actions
Internal data collection across the NTAV	Conduct comprehensive annual emissions audits to measure the collective organisational carbon footprint and reduction in emissions. Assign budget to achieve this.	Assess risk to individual NTAV places and collections from climate impacts, including whether condition of asset is adequate and what adaptation measures are recommended.	Survey and map biodiversity values at NTAV places
	Identify and map resources and partnerships required to facilitate a carbon neutral goal.	Build climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into our asset and collections management planning and individual Asset Management Plans.	Assess and quantify carbon sequestration and in-setting potential of NTAV gardens and landscapes.
Facilitate sustainable practises across the NTAV	Implement recommendations from emissions audit reports to reduce carbon and waste output of organisational activities.	Identify and pursue funding opportunities for property energy audits, mitigation works and other sustainability and resilience outcomes.	Focus management and succession planning of gardens and landscapes on the delivery of resilient and adaptable environments into the future.
	Ensure ongoing review of organisational practices through the CAP working group.	Showcase and promote the inherent sustainability of heritage (and methods for enhancing this) through projects such as retrofitting and adaptive reuse at our places.	Ensure management practices at our gardens and landscapes protect biodiversity and identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity outcomes.
Build resilience in the organisation to mitigate the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis	Forge partnerships with individuals and organisations (including First Nations groups) to build capacity for climate resilience.	Incorporate climate change mitigation into Asset Management Plans for properties and the Asset Management Strategy.	Incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into our landscape and garden management planning.
	Resource CAP working group to drive implementation of CAP across all teams.	Build internal asset maintenance capacity and technical knowledge to deliver adaptation, mitigation and resilience measures.	Protect and enhance biodiversity at NTAV places, including through community partnerships, research opportunities, and commercial agreements.

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Principles	Actions	Actions	Actions
Communicate NTAV sustainability initiatives to our internal stakeholders	Include decarbonisation awareness and practical measures in staff and volunteer training.	Include climate awareness in staff and volunteer induction training.	Include biodiversity policies in staff and volunteer training.
Educate and advocate externally on challenges and solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis	Incorporate, into all our work, campaigning on the inherent sustainability of heritage, the benefits it brings communities and key role heritage plays in future livability.	Demonstrate and communicate practical heritage-based climate change impact mitigations through our conservation works.	Support significant landscape and tree protection across Victoria in both the public and private realm.
	Communicate our key climate actions and achievements through digital, public and on-site channels.	Advocate for adaptive reuse incentives and initiatives and adequate funding for heritage sites to adapt to and mitigate climate change effects.	Advocate for adequate provision of urban nature spaces to maintain livability, biodiversity and mitigate climate impacts into the future.



The fernery at Rippon Lea Estate, by Simon Fazio.

## Contact Us

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