

GBGA 2020 – ORDINARY MEETING 21 MAY

Pre- meeting briefing notes



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE STATION NETWORK

The GBGA collaborated with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance to examine the practicalities and business case for a Victorian regional charge station network for electric vehicles. The project includes 43 regional/rural councils, and 12 metro councils, in a \$100,000 study, funded by councils and DELWP.

NDEVR has finished the study and investigated the full range of factors in this developing area, including

- Investigate and map current and planned EV charge stations and analyse factors for optimum location of stations across Victoria, produce a tool to assist analysis of proposed site
- Analyse other projects in Australia and overseas for learnings
- Investigate financing and implementation options
- Outcomes report

Benefits of a statewide EV Charge Station network

- A statewide project would create **jobs**, and more importantly a significant boost to **regional tourism and economic development** who have been hard hit by bushfires and reduced travel during the lockdown measures.
- **Climate change** remains a significant concern of communities right across the state, rural, regional and metro. Local leadership is still important.
- Significant health benefits from improved **air quality**
- There is the potential for there to be **state government support** for EV chargers coming mid year as part of the Zero Emissions Roadmap from DELWP. We wont know this until mid year but good to be as ready as possible.
- [EV uptake](#) is continuing to rise despite the economic downturn. Corona virus has heightened Australians desires for **self sufficiency** and reducing exposures to vulnerabilities like oil prices/supply.

Next Steps

Firm up location and type of Charge Station

The study has suggested towns for charge locations. The type of charger is not decided. Recently developed electric vehicles will only use an AC charge station at low currents – 7kW AC

These vehicles need DC chargers for a reasonable charge speed, say 25 kW DC or 50 kW DC.

The price difference is significant : 7kW AC about \$10-15k; 25 kW DC up to \$50k

Canvas possible funding approaches



Overview of Charging Infrastructure – highlighting feasible options in red

								
	Level 1 Trickle	Level 2 AC	Destination Charging		Level 3 DC Fast Charging			
	2.3kW AC	7kW AC	11kW AC	22kW AC	25kW DC	50kW DC	100kW DC	350kW DC
 Locations	General Power Point	Homes, Hotels, Council Offices	Shopping Centres, Car parks, Destinations		Destination	Transport Corridor	Transport Corridor/Highway	Superhighway
 Electrical Inputs	Single Phase, 10A	Single Phase, 32A	Three Phase, 32A		Three Phase, 40A	Three Phase, 80A	Three Phase	Three Phase
 EV Limitations	None	None	The majority of EVs on the market cannot charge at more than 7kW AC		Some older model EVs and PHEVs cannot use DC		Tesla Only	The majority of EVs currently on the market cannot charge at this rate.
 For 100 km	In theory: 8.7 hr For most of the current day EVs: 8.7 hr	2.7 hr	1.7 hr	55 min	50 min	24 min	10 min	5 min
 Approximate Hardware Cost	\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$\$\$,\$,\$\$\$,\$,\$\$\$,\$,\$,\$\$\$,\$,\$,\$\$\$

Figure 18: Overview of Charging infrastructure

DEVELOPING ADVOCACY PROGRAMS

ADVOCACY Item (1) for Improved Sustainability and Affordability of Homes

The GBGA supports the One Million Homes alliance (OMH) which includes the Councils of Social Service for different states, Environment Victoria, Renew, and other Greenhouse Alliances. GBGA has joined in advocacy directed to the Building and Energy Minister's Forums related to the COAG 'Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings'. The trajectory program has 11 workstreams including input to the review of the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

The OMH has formed a further coalition to continue this advocacy under the 'Health Affordable Homes' (HAH) banner. The aim is to improve address issue relating to sustainability, social access and basic health improvements associated with secure, affordable and sustainable housing. The HAH program is preparing information and advocacy in a number of the COAG Trajectory workstreams and COVID recovery issues:

- New Housing Standards
- Rental Housing Standards – minimum standards and incentive schemes
- Energy efficiency ratings and disclosure
- Energy Efficiency as part of the economic stimulus package

The HAH coalition is preparing a joint statement to state and federal governments to commit to an energy efficiency package targeted at vulnerable households as part of economic recovery.

The Executive Officer is involved as an observer. There is an opportunity to emphasize issues for regional areas, and support this overall advocacy program.

Description of Work in HAH program

- a) Energy Efficiency standards for new Builds – aims to develop a draft strategy to support implementation of more ambitious energy efficiency standards of at least 7 star rating. Lead: Renew
- b) Mandatory Rental Standards - This working group will develop a draft strategy to support the implementation of mandatory rental standards. Lead: Better Renting
- c) Measures for Vulnerable Households - This working group will develop a draft strategy to support the implementation of measures to improve the energy efficiency of vulnerable households that aren't dealt with through mandatory rental standards in private sector. Vulnerable groups would therefore include, public, community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing, and low-income home owners.
- d) "Other" Trajectory work streams working group - Engaging with the other work streams in the COAG Trajectory process, including framework for mandatory disclosures, Strata Buildings, inform supply chain materials, GEMS appliances, practical guide for household consumers etc Lead: ECA
- e) EE as Economic stimulus - This working group will look at developing energy efficiency measures that could be rolled out as part of a jobs and economic stimulus package post COVID-19 crisis. Potential measures include but not limited to: upgrade energy efficiency in public, community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing, and low-income homeowners. Lead ACOSS
- f) Improving EE During COVID-19 - This working group will look at developing up a package of communications that we can share with our constituents and public to improve comfort and save on energy during the COVID-19 lockdown, including to leverage existing resources like Better Renting, AEF, Renew etc. Lead: Energy Council of Australia ECA

ADVOCACY Item 2. Recovery from Fire and COVID – how to include climate change progress

The Victorian Alliances have been discussing the co-benefits that can arise from the recovery investment and how to include climate related benefits. The EO has compiled this list, based in part on regional studies and GBGA projects.

- **Climate resilient projects for public buildings**, especially community halls and sporting facilities in smaller communities. This will produce efficiency savings in efficient lighting and heating/aircon systems, and use of solar hot water and 3kW solar panel systems. Community groups have small budgets and operational savings would improve their sustainability and their ability to assist the community. The projects would need capital assistance for purchase and installation. Such projects would help electrical and solar businesses get through the COVID period and help community morale.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging network.** Tourism in the region will take some years to recover from the double shock of severe fires and COVID shutdown. The statewide feasibility study 'Charging the regions' shows that EV access in the regions could generate \$25 million in tourism spend over 10 years as EV use increases. \$1.7M would make the Goulburn and North East regions of Victoria EV ready, with 1 x 50kw DC fast charger per municipality, and 4 x 22kw AC chargers per municipality. This would create jobs and capability in the installation process, as well as boost regional economies and tourism in future years.
- **Climate resilient infrastructure.** In fire affected areas, councils and agencies will be rebuilding and repairing infrastructure. It is essential this infrastructure includes measures to make communities more connected and resilient during future extreme events. This includes incorporating local renewable energy/battery installations and improved communications. Infrastructure also needs to be designed for increased storm and runoff events. There could be opportunities to reuse stormwater to save precious potable water for community use during drought and periods of disruption.
- **Home energy efficiency.** Low income households often live in substandard thermal housing that makes households trade-off between hot/freezing conditions and paying energy bills. Low income households would be assisted by expansion of free Victorian energy efficiency scorecard home assessments in regional areas and provision of retrofit funding to improve thermal comfort and reduce energy bills. Could also include jobs for community workers to assist people with energy hardship. Many improvements will be installed by local businesses which will expand capacity of this sector in the region. Savings by householders would likely be spent in the local communities.
- **Commercial energy efficiency.** Commercial recovery can be assisted through decreased operational costs using energy efficiency and solar/batteries . This will produce energy cost savings through actions such as efficient lighting and heating/aircon systems, refrigeration and cooking systems, and use of solar hot water and solar/battery systems. Sustainability Victoria has offered business information services in the past and these services can be expanded to assist business knowledge. Possible capital investment will assist businesses, which can utilise the increased tax write offs in 2019/20. Some councils will assist large projects with Environmental Upgrade Finance offers.
- **Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU).** Householders and businesses in rural areas do not have practical access to savings in the VEU program due to lack of access to accredited installers and local awareness; Victorian government can take steps to recruit and train local installers to increase uptake and give rural householders equity with urban areas.
- **Capitalise the Community Capacity to Support Distributed Renewable Energy.** Particularly in north east Victoria, a community energy network is active with 15 community energy groups showing the strength of community backing for local renewable energy. A number of these groups are developing microgrid/battery renewable energy projects, some in association with Mondo Power. The development of Indigo Power and the recent fulfilment of a local share offering during the COVID shutdown demonstrates the strength of community support. This is a mature community energy network that can realise local energy projects. Structures such as extension of Community Power Hubs, more direct engagement through Solar Vic, and grant opportunities, could transform local energy provision to allow affordable and secure local energy, particularly focussed on community hubs and social housing.

ADVOCACY Item (3) Electricity Distribution Price Review for 2021-25

In May 2019, the GBGA joined with other Victorian Alliances to prepare a case to the Australian Energy Regulator review of charges to councils by electricity distribution business (DB), for example, for operation and maintenance of streetlights. This is the EDPR Electricity Distribution Price Review for 2021-25. The Victorian Alliances engaged a consultant to analyse the submissions by the different DBs, for instance benchmarking costs between the submissions. The outcome shows there is a potential saving of up to \$30 million for councils across Victoria over four years. There is a higher saving in the Ausnet region than the Powercor region.

The draft submission has been sent to GBGA officers for comment. The submission will be made to the AER by end May.

VICTORIAN LGA POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PPA)

Eight councils of the GBGA commenced in this statewide project to purchase of renewable energy at a competitive rate and significantly advance councils towards their carbon reduction objectives. In the Stage 1, councils worked with City of Darebin as lead and Energetics (consultant) to investigate market conditions and build a business case. This included Energetics work to build a tailored energy, carbon, and financial model over 10 years to allow each council to assess final procurement. This model is essential for decision making.

In 2019, councils commenced participation in Stage 2—the PPA tender. The councils intended to work with MAV as the agent to run the tender process. Various issues occurred, a key one being that Energetics disputed the capacity of MAV to ensure the security of its intellectual property. In January 2020, Darebin commissioned Maddocks to conduct an assessment of the governance structure and effective processes to deliver the project. The preferred outcome was to retain the work in stage 1, and hence Energetics, and for councils to revoke their agreement with MAV as procurement agent. This results in a 12 month delay to the procurement date, now July 2022, rather than the original target of July 2021. Mitchell Council opted to join an alternative PPA project by Procurement Australia (PA). The other participating councils from GBGA did not adopt this as the PA option does not meet other objectives of the project, including greater decision control for council buyers in a PPA.

Darebin has become lead council for the project and adopted Maddocks governance recommendations. Darebin has consulted with partner councils on a new Deed of Participation between each council and City of Darebin. This will be issued to councils in the project in the week of 18 May 2020 to evaluate and adopt. With more than 40 councils in the buyers group and this being an innovative project, one risk management mechanism is the ability of councils to withdraw from the project at key points.

Campaspe, Indigo, Moira, Murrindindi, Shepparton, Strathbogie and Wodonga councils will assess the Deed of Agreement to remain in the project, to purchase renewable energy for part or all of their energy use.

This is also an opportunity for new councils to join the renewable energy procurement. A webinar about the project will be held on 26th May.