

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



From the GBGA Chair

I have been honoured to perform the role of chair from 2017 to 2020, for this important, strongly represented regional alliance committee and forum.

The ability to work in collaboration on environmental projects is a benefit to all Council members. We continue also to work on statewide projects with state alliance groups. Our advocacy is powerful being able to work so broadly.

We welcomed Alpine and Towong Shires this year, expanding our membership to all the North-east and Goulburn Broken regions. The increased strength of the alliance broadens our capacity and project development.

With thanks, I'd like to acknowledge the passion and expertise of our EO, Bronwyn Chapman. Thank you to the Greater Shepparton City for their Alliance auspice.

It has been another successful year despite the challenges placed on us all and our communities.

We look forward to future sustainable projects based on previous successful models.

Cr Marg Attle OAM Chairperson, GBGA Alliance

2019- 2020 highlights

- **Welcomed Alpine Shire and Towong Shire as full members of the Alliance**
- **Worked with member North East Catchment Management Authority in their project to produce local climate projections; exploring application to council impacts and operations**
- **Participation of 7 member councils to purchase renewable energy in the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement (with 40 other councils)**
- **Alliance council members joined in the 'Charge the Regions' project, involving 55 Victorian councils to evaluate an electric vehicle charge network across the state.**

Who we are

The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA), established in 2007, promotes and supports action on climate change in the goulburn broken and north east regions of Victoria.

GBGA supports its members through project management, advocacy, securing funding and knowledge sharing to build capacity.

Our vision

Our communities actively responding to climate change to help build a positive future.



GBGA Members

Greater Shepparton City Council (auspice Council)

Alpine Shire Council

Benalla Rural City Council

Campaspe Shire Council

Indigo Shire Council

Mansfield Shire Council

Mitchell Shire Council

Moira Shire Council

Murrindindi Shire Council

Strathbogie Shire Council

Towong Shire Council

Wangaratta Rural City

City of Wodonga

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

North East Catchment Management Authority

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Hume)



Joins With Other Alliances in Statewide Action

There are seven greenhouse alliances in Victoria, including 70 of 79 councils in collaborative greenhouse action. It is a feature of the maturity of the alliances that 2019/20 saw increased cooperation to launch several statewide projects involving multiple councils.

Joint Council Procurement of Renewable Energy

GBGA members work to reduce their carbon emissions and a key action is rooftop solar on public facilities to replace coal based power with renewable energy. This approach has been extended through a significant joint purchasing scheme. Forty-seven Victorian councils have joined to purchase renewable energy through the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement. Seven GBGA councils will purchase up to 100% of energy needs from a renewable source. The experience has built understanding in the GBGA of renewable energy options. An eighth council has purchased renewable energy through a different scheme.



Establishing the viability of electric vehicle travel in regional Victoria

GBGA councils joined with councils around the state to investigate the establishment of a statewide network of charge stations for electric vehicle travel. Electric vehicles are expected to become price competitive with combustion vehicles by 2025, encouraging uptake. The Victorian government has installed fast chargers to allow travel along key freeway and highway routes. Further charger placement is needed to allow travel within regions for business and tourist needs. Otherwise electric vehicle travel will concentrate around the Melbourne area and the main routes between capital cities. The study identified realistic options in this fast developing



In 2020/21, the alliance will help councils to develop regionally specific options and partnerships.

Joint Advocacy by Victorian Alliances

Joint 2020/21 submissions strengthen the advocacy to Victorian and Federal government in a range of policy areas:

- The quantum of interim targets for greenhouse gas emission reduction in Victoria. These are essential to restrict temperature increases to a safe level.
- Seeking investment for statewide council projects that would significantly reduce carbon emissions, such as energy efficient streetlights for main roads.
- Arguing for synergies in COVID stimulus measures that also upgrade systems and infrastructure to accelerate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.



GBGA Establishes Advocacy Partnerships

The GBGA has established formal collaboration that enables effective advocacy on policy approaches to improve the social wellbeing of communities. Two key partnerships are the national Healthy Affordable Homes Coalition and the One Million Homes coalition.

Healthy Affordable Homes includes more than 40 organisations combined in national advocacy, led by the Australian Council of Social Services. The GBGA has joined in advocacy to improve energy performance for new housing in the national Construction Code, minimum energy standards for rental accommodation and social housing, and measures to encourage upgrade. The GBGA has also joined in advocacy at national level for COVID stimulus measures to create jobs through energy efficiency upgrades for low income, social and rental housing. One Million Homes is a Victorian alliance aiming to see one million Victorian homes upgraded for energy and water efficiency. It has made similar advocacy in Victoria.

Working in partnership to develop a sustainable future

In 2019-20, the GBGA continued its contribution to regional strategy and knowledge development.

- The executive officer and members are working on consultation committees for the Hume Regional Adaptation Strategy, being developed by associate member DELWP.
- The GBGA participated in a community co-design process, coordinated by the Federal Member for Indi, to develop a community energy plan “Unlocking Energy in Regional Australia”.
- Regional knowledge to help adaptation by agriculture in the region was furthered by the 2019 “Embedding Climate Change in Agriculture” in north east Victoria. Lead organisation North East CMA drew on learnings from the 2016 GBGA project “Climate Smart Agricultural Development” in the Goulburn Broken catchment to produce improved climate tools for north east Victoria. These projects give a rich picture of the challenges of climate change to agriculture in the region and tools to plan for adaptation measures.

Building the Strength of the GBGA

The GBGA was pleased to welcome two further councils into the partnership in 2019-20—Towong Shire Council and Alpine Shire Council. The inclusion of our neighbours from north east Victoria strengthens the GBGA to a membership of 13 councils and the two Catchment Management Authorities in the region, along with DELWP (Hume) as an associate member. This enhances collaboration by members to share information across the region. The GBGA now has a regional ‘voice’ in advocacy and external partnerships. This was an advantage in 2020 when the GBGA assisted meetings in the region of the Victorian parliamentary Environment and Planning Committee with members. The committee learnt the breadth of climate responses in councils and communities, and also barriers restricting greater action.

ANNUAL REPORT



Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance - annual business report

FY 2019- 2020

Financial Report 2019-20

The Alliance operates through member financial and in-kind contributions which support attainment of our vision and mission. The operating costs of the Alliance in 2019-20 were \$136,963. The Alliance also holds a surplus of funds for approved project work and contingencies. Over the last 5 years, grants have allowed the GBGA to realise projects worth \$5.1 million, with grants increasing GBGA contributions by a ratio of 2.8.

Looking forward to 2020-21

In 2020-21 the GBGA will assist members with tools and information to achieve sustainability outcomes in several regional and statewide projects.

- Participation in the procurement process for a Local Government Power Purchase Agreement to use renewable energy for 47 Victorian councils (including 7 councils from the GBGA).
- Advance planning for a network of electric vehicle charge stations in the GBGA area.
- 'Growing Cooler Green Urban Spaces' - a project to promote greening projects consistent with projected future climates and realise co-benefits for improved urban environments, community health and biodiversity.
- Promote climate change responses during strategic development in 2021 of Council Plans, Regional Catchment Strategies and the Hume Regional Adaptation Strategy.
- Finalise governance arrangements and commence a new auspice for the GBGA from July 2021.

Contact Us

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Explore

Use the GBGA website to explore the many projects and resources of the alliance.

GOULBURN BROKEN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCE MEMBERS



Our communities actively responding to climate change to help build a positive future