

Ordinary meeting of the GOULBURN MURRAY CLIMATE ALLIANCE  
on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 11 am - 2 pm  
Meeting held at hubs and via zoom

## Agenda

**Attendees** (Councillor, officer representatives)

Cr Vincent, Sarah Buckley, Adam Saddler, Mayor Cr Weller, Allison McCallum, Cr Shephard, Sam Niedra, Cr Webb (chair), Damien Gerrans, Cr Bannister, Elyse Kelly, Brendan Garrett, James Steinfort, Cr Walsh, Brad Byrne, Vito Albicini, Cr Spinks, Marisa O'Halloran, Cr Hayes-Burke, Cr Murray, Molly Odgers, Cr Peter Dikschei, Anthony Dufty, Cr Herry, Kristy Roche, Bek Caldwell, Wei Heng Chan

**Apologies** Cr Nicholas, Cr O'Brien, Cr Martin, Cr Bennett, Cr Price, Rachael Gadd, Evelina Dudzinski, Tina Whatley, Robyn Nicholas, Leon Schultz, Kate Brunt, Helen Wilson, Lachlan Campbell, Sharon Terry, Chelsea Cherry

1. **Welcome by Chairperson** **Cr Rohan Webb**

2. **Conflict of Interest Declaration (GMCA Rule 2.21)**

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. **Endorsement of minutes from previous meeting (Thursday 20 May 2021)**

The minutes were distributed via email.

Also available on members section of GMCA website. [www.gbga.com.au](http://www.gbga.com.au) (password Climateaction#7)

**MOTION** That the Minutes for the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Ordinary meeting of 20 May 2021, as distributed, be confirmed.

That the Chairperson of this ordinary meeting sign the minutes and certify that they have been confirmed.

Sarah Buckley, Cr Walsh

4. **Action Progress – Previous Meetings** see page 3

5. **Project and Funding Report** see page 5

6. **Advocacy Report** see page 4

The GMCA has an opportunity to provide further comment to the Victorian Sector Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs)

**ACTION:** The EO will circulate the preliminary advocacy for the AAPs and seek further input.

7. **GOVERNANCE**

7.1 **Alliance Committee Report** Reported in AGM

7.2 **Progress of Executive Officer appointment** **Brad Byrne (MSC)**

Carole Hammond has been appointed as the next EO of the GMCA, and will commence on September 13. Carole is currently working in Canberra managing a program to build sustainable education infrastructure, She previously worked at Shire of Strathbogie where she developed the Environment Sustainability Strategy, and community energy programs. She has recently completed a Masters in Planning.

**7.3 Financial Report**

**Brad Byrne (MSC)**

The current year MSC budget is included on page 11. There has been minor expenditure associated with employment process of the new EO.

**MOTION That the Financial report be accepted**

**Cr Vincent Damien Gerrans**

**8. Strategic Theme – Environmentally Sustainable Development**

The recording of the speakers can be accessed at [www.gbga.com.au](http://www.gbga.com.au)  
Members section – Resources Strategic Planning (password Climateaction#7)

- (a) Overview of ESD in Planning Scheme Simon Francis  
Simon Francis ESD Officer City of Bendigo
- (b) Victorian Alliances Advocacy project: - Integrating Climate Change Action in Planning (see pg 13)  
Fran MacDonald Executive Officer - Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)
- (c) Elevating ESD Targets/ Sustainable Subdivisions Framework  
Elyse Kelly Environment Coordinator Mitchell Shire Council  
Bridie Guy Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)

**ACTION**

- EO to report progress in project reports at Alliance meetings**
- EO to collate information about previous studies and experiences in officer resource sharing**

**9. Around the GMCA Region - Round table reports from members**

See page 6-10

**10. CLOSE**

**Further Information - both council officers and EO can assist with information about the GMCA and projects.**

**NEXT MEETING** Thurs 18/11/21 proposed to be at BENALLA LAKESIDE CENTRE

**MEETING CLOSED 1:47pm**

**SIGNED**



Cr Rohan Webb | Chair, GMCA

**DATED:** 29/11/2021 .....

## MEETINGS ACTION TABLE UPDATE

| Date        | ACTION<br> Complete  in progress  not commenced | WHO | WHEN |   |
|-------------|--|-----|------|---|
| <b>2019</b> |  |     |      |   |
| AC may      | Develop a criteria list to evaluate suitability of any proposal for GMCA action  | EO  | TBD  |  |
| AC may      | Induction procedure/checklist for AC Being planned by AC   | EO  | TBD  |  |
| <b>2020</b> | <b>Ordinary Meetings</b>   |     |      |   |
| Feb 19      | EO to prioritise development of the Communications and Engagement Plan in the action plan. Subcommittee of Alliance Committee to assist  | EO  | TBD  |  |
| Dec 17      | EO to compile examples of decisions made by Councils to purchase EVs, including considerations when leasing council fleet.- see below  | EO  |      |  |
| <b>2021</b> | <b>Ordinary Meetings</b>   |     |      |   |
| August 2021 | The EO will circulate the preliminary advocacy for the AAPs and seek further input.  | EO  |      |   |
| August 2021 | EO to collate information about previous studies and experiences concerning officer resource sharing   | EO  |      |   |

### Fleet Transition Approaches

Shepparton Council is using Leaf and Kona with a 2x14kW chargers (office and depot). The decision to purchase included evaluation of benefits using the GMCA/NDEVR and Climate works EV evaluation tools.

Benalla Council is investigating leasing of EVs.

## ADVOCACY REPORT AUGUST 2021

GMCA advocacy is set out on the GMCA website under 'News' then 'Advocacy'.

Submission to STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY (Parliament of Australia) Inquiry into the Australian Local Power Agency Bill 2021 and Australian Local Power Agency (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021 – joint submission GMCA and CVGA

- inquiry is examining the Australian Local Power Agency Bill 2021, introduced by the member for Indi, based on the Local Power Plan
- The EO will be speaking to this submission at committee hearing on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August

### Victorian Gas Substitution Roadmap

Submission by the Victorian Alliances to DELWP consultation document

#### Key Points

- Urgent and full decarbonisation is required – Action should not be delayed when there are cost effective solutions available today. Actions need to be taken within the timeframes of the state's legislated interim emission reduction targets.
- Seize the economic opportunity – The transition presents enormous opportunities to expand the clean energy industry, generate jobs, boost economic productivity, and position Victoria as a leader in clean energy technologies.
- Ensure the transition is socially inclusive and equitable – The transition needs to be managed to ensure that the benefits are shared equitably and that the costs are not unduly borne by vulnerable communities and rural regions and those least able to afford it. Gas substitution could only benefit communities with gas reticulation.

### Infrastructure Victoria “Towards 2050-Gas infrastructure zero emissions economy” study

The submission to DELWP was also submitted to this consultation.

### Victorian Sectoral Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs)

GMCA submission – particularly Primary Production AAP and Built Environment AAP.  
Making this submission allows the GMCA to be involved in further consultation.

## UPCOMING

### Joint Advocacy in Planning by Victorian Alliances

This is a medium term project to advocate to the State government for development of the Planning Scheme to deliver land use and development that provides for Victorian communities to be resilient, equitable and safe in a changing climate. SEE pg 8 (summary also reported in May 2021 meeting)

### Energy Efficient, Safe and Equitable housing standards

Advocacy will continue with the Healthy Affordable Homes Coalition (national coalition led by ACOSS) and One Million Homes (Victorian advocacy) on:

- Development of the National Construction Code for new builds and major renovations – energy efficiency, star rating, efficient appliance standards etc
- Update the NLEPP with recent studies by Deloitte for ACOSS
- Victorian and national minimum rental standards
- Development of federal trajectory for low energy buildings (new and existing buildings)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT – Projects run or joined by GMCA

|   | DESCRIPTION  | PROGRESS AUGUST 2021  | PROPOSED ACTION  | Who            |
|---|--|---|--|----------------|
| Naturally Cooler Towns                    | Planning project to increase urban forest canopy to cool towns and achieve extra benefits for public wellbeing, environment, vulnerable areas, business areas  | Project Host: Strathbogie Shire<br>FUNDED \$60,000<br>(DELWP Climate Ready Hume Regional Grants)<br>RFQ released and closes 24 August               | Form PCG and evaluation panel<br>Organise officer support for project. | M Odgers<br>EO |
| Upgrade MV lights to LED (Ausnet area)    | Ausnet has proposed co-funding for a bulk changeover for 80W MV lights to 18W LED lights. This will have savings in energy use (alpine, benalla, mansfield, murrindindi, mitchell, murrindindi strathbogie, towong, wangaratta, wodonga) | Preliminary meetings have occurred with Ausnet (GMCA, EAGA and SECCA, plus Sarah Buckley rep from Alpine Shire, and council reps from other regions | Further meetings planned   | EO             |
| Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plans | Review of PHWPs shows that climate change considerations could be improved in the Plans  | EO participating in regional working group with DELWP and DHHS as part of Regional Adaptation Strategy<br>Briefings at May Alliance meeting         | No further planned   | EO             |
| ESD in planning scheme - subdivision      | Sustainable Subdivision Framework in trial stage (project lead Wodonga)  | Presentation at GMCA meeting August 19  | EO monitor progress  | EO             |
| Elevating ESD Targets                     | CASBE project with several GMCA councils involved – Mitchell, Shepparton, Wodonga  | Elyse Kelly from Mitchell Shire is on Project Committee   | Monitor progress   | EK             |
| Vic Alliances                             | The EO liaises with other alliances on several projects  | Planning Advocacy project – presentation to meeting 19 August 2021  | EO involvement in Project Advisory Team                                | EO             |
| Hume Region Adaptation Strategy           | Final consultation complete; final Strategy being reviewed within DELWP for final approval. And release  | EO represents GMCA in this project and facilitate communication   | Liaise about further work in next year of RAS implementation           | EO             |

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

| PROJECT                     | GRANT OPPORTUNITY  | Status  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| EV charge stations-regional | Destination Chargers Across Victoria<br>Closed 13/8/2021<br>Several applications submitted | EO assisted joint application by 5 councils in NE Vic (Lead – Towong Shire with Alpine, Benalla, Murrindindi and Wangaratta)<br>And separate applications by Moira Shire and Mitchell Shire<br>Many Councils also supported an application by Evie Networks |

| June - Aug 2021 | GMCA AROUND THE REGION UPDATES FROM COUNCILS REPORT FOR MAIN GMCA MEETING August 19, 2021  |
|-----------------|--|
| ALPINE          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Plan is completed and scheduled for adoption on the 8 September. If adopted. Council will commit to net zero emissions by July 2023 for its corporate GHG emissions.</li> <li>• Local landfills GHG emissions measured onsite using flux meters to assess flows</li> <li>• Our corporate GHG emissions incorporated those emissions associated with Councils closed landfills.</li> <li>• Solar and battery installations completed across 4 Councils major facilities.</li> <li>• Joint application completed to the Destination Charging Across Victoria.</li> </ul>   |
| BENALLA         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributed a support letter to the joint application completed to the Destination Charging Across Victoria.</li> <li>• Manager for Economic Development and Sustainability, Adam Saddler, started on 26 July</li> <li>• Recently advertised for an Environmental Sustainability Coordinator to fill vacant position at Council</li> <li>• Council is keen to maximise growth in solar farms</li> </ul>   |
| CAMPASPE        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of <i>Charging the Regions 2</i>, the electric vehicle chargers in Echuca was held on 17 June. The launch featured in social media, local newspaper and WIN News. Unfortunately, the chargers have spent a couple of weeks offline due to component failure caused by a storm energy surge. Now that the components have arrived, the chargers will be fixed shortly.</li> <li>• Initiated Integrated Water Management Project <i>Recycled Water for a Greener Echuca</i>. This project is a feasibility study for a recycled water scheme from the Echuca West Water Reclamation Plant for irrigation of key public spaces.</li> <li>• Council is developing the Campaspe Municipal Health &amp; Wellbeing Plan 2021-25 with a draft report to go to Council in September</li> <li>• Council has committed funding in 2021-22 for energy efficiency projects and solar for council buildings</li> <li>• Great presentation from Bronwyn promoting the Alliance to Campaspe's Councillors.</li> </ul>                            |
| INDIGO          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VECO kicked in on 1<sup>st</sup> July so council's energy is 100% renewables. Transfer to Red Energy pretty seamless.</li> <li>• Floret (Flo) Meredith has started as Sustainability Projects Officer (part-time) to back-fill for Helen Jones while she is on long-service leave until Jan 2022. She will concentrate on implementation of the Emissions Reduction Plan and support for community projects.</li> <li>• Council's community sustainability grants are currently being implemented.</li> <li>• Council's Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) has been finalised and is now a working document. Our goal (currently) is zero net emissions by 2035. NDEVR Environmental has since delivered a Carbon Accounting 101 session and an ERP overview to Council's Executive Management Team. VECO involvement has reduced Council's total greenhouse emissions by almost 20%.</li> <li>• Council is submitting two applications to Sustainability Victoria's Community Climate Change &amp; Energy Action Program (Stream 1)</li> </ul> |
| MANSFIELD       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council provided a letter of support to Evie's proposal for an EV fast charger to be located in Mansfield</li> <li>• Applying to SV Community Climate Change &amp; Energy Action Program (Stream 1 – audits)</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Mansfield is applying for funding for a project at a community hall for solar, battery and EV charger</li> <li>• The Open Space Strategy has been drafted; including greening projects and link to existing integrated water management plan</li> <li>• Mansfield Climate Action Plan Background Paper and summary papers released for public comment. See link <a href="#">here</a><br/><a href="#">Next step is Councillor workshop is Councillor workshop to prioritise actions</a></li> </ul>  |
| MITCHELL        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission made to DCAV funding opportunity for 2 x 25kWDC charging stations at the Broadford Civic Centre carpark as well as support for Evie's proposal.</li> </ul>   |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESD Policy for Council Buildings out for public feedback until 18<sup>th</sup> August. Will go to Council in September for adoption.</li> <li>• ESD training conducted by Hip v Hype for Council staff to help build capacity prior to policy adoption.</li> <li>• Planning a ‘Sustainable Homes’ day event for end of the year in collaboration with Mitchell Community Energy.</li> <li>• Have set standards to increase our purchase of 100% recycled paper.</li> <li>• Re-working our website to include information on sustainable living and climate change.</li> <li>• Notice of Motion by Councillors for a potential Climate Emergency approach is being researched for Council in September</li> </ul>   |
| MOIRA       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Council submission made to DCAV funding opportunity for a 50kW DC charger at Federation Park, Cobram</li> <li>• Council also endorsed Evie’s proposal for a fast charger to be located in Yarrawonga</li> <li>• 50kW solar system on Numurkah Sports &amp; Aquatic Centre completed July 2021</li> <li>• Currently completing end of financial year energy, water and emissions reporting</li> </ul>  |
| MURRINDINDI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murrindindi was included in the joint GMCA application to the Destination Charging Across Victoria funding, as well as Evie and Linga Networks applications</li> <li>• Submission provided in support of Australian Local Power Agency Bill 2021</li> <li>• Emissions reduction pathways work completed by consultant 2XE</li> <li>• Currently undertaking a climate change risk analysis across the organisation; developing a draft Adaptation (and Mitigation) Plan.</li> <li>• Working with community group 2030Yea to have solar panels installed on community buildings, with most recent successful grant sought by the group being for Yea Community / Pottery Shed.</li> <li>• Working with NATION PARTNERS on Climate change topics of interest – risk to council infrastructure and people</li> </ul>   |
| SHEPPARTON  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still tidying up the transfer of accounts from AGL to Red as part of VECO program, identified many invoices not issued by AGL</li> <li>• 2030 Emissions Plan Options Paper received approval from ELT for the ‘Do all’ option, which is to take all practical steps to reduce emissions, leaving only a small amount to offset. Currently preparing report for Councillors</li> <li>• Climate Emergency Action Plan has developed background papers, and currently engaging in targeted workshops with focus groups to shape the draft plan</li> <li>• Community sustainability grant round currently open</li> <li>• DC charger installation has been delayed due to supply chain issues, likely now September</li> <li>• Expecting another 6 EVs to join council fleet this financial year, trialled an MG</li> <li>• Investigating upgrading our fleet chargers from AC to DC</li> <li>• DCAV letters of support to Evie and Tatura car wash</li> <li>• Applications for audits through SVs Community Climate Change Energy grant program for community sites; some requests for Stream 2 but Council unable to commit to these as require budget and staff resourcing</li> <li>• One Tree Per Child revegetation plantings delayed due to Covid</li> <li>• Feedback provided for RCS, State sector adaptation plans</li> </ul> |
| STRATHBOGIE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCAV – letters of support to both Evie and Linga for a EV charger in Nagambie (location to be determined)</li> <li>• Climate Change Community Panel had to be cancelled because of (surprise!) COVID. Looking at options to move online.</li> <li>• 4 Applications under the Climate Change and Energy Action Grants (3 for stream 1 and 1 for stream 2)</li> </ul>  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenel Memorial Hall was successful in getting funding in the budget for solar panel and battery so that can operate as a heat refuge during power outages.</li> <li>• Naturally Cooler towns is in the market ( 26 tenderers downloaded so far)</li> <li>• Greening Euroa has a preliminary design and we are working on the lobbying plan to get funding for the project.</li> </ul>   |
| TOWONG     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New staff member (Anthony Dufty) commenced at Tallangatta office on 15 June.</li> <li>• Towong is lead for DCAV Joint submission on behalf of Murrundindi, Benalla, Wangaratta, Alpine and Towong Shire. Thank you, Bronwyn, for your assistance with the application. If successful, this project compliments Evie and Linga applications by other Councils and Corryong CBD streetscape EV charge station development.</li> <li>• Attended meeting with Ausnet on street lighting project. Audit needed to ensure Ausnet’s database of lighting types and numbers is correct.</li> </ul>   |
| WANGARATTA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2025 was endorsed at the June meeting.</li> <li>• Support provided to Swamps, Rivers &amp; Ranges to host ‘Navigating climate change in North East Landscapes’ Forum in Wangaratta on 27<sup>th</sup> of August.</li> <li>• Part of DCAV Joint Submission led by Towong and together with Murrundindi, Benalla, and Alpine.</li> <li>• Emission &amp; energy reporting currently underway.</li> <li>• Community &amp; school tree planting day moved to September due to COVID restrictions.</li> <li>• Recruitment for a Bush Regen support officer completed, new starter commencing in August.</li> <li>• Working with Wangaratta Landcare &amp; Sustainability Network on Sustainable House Day/Month activities.</li> <li>• Communities Combating Pests &amp; Weeds program update: fencing material has been delivered, permits have been received, weed control in progress and ACUP courses have started running with more to come throughout the year.</li> <li>• RCOW in discussion with Mondo Project Edge for potential 100kW solar system on council depot (to be used in Edge investigation of interaction of medium solar systems with grid)</li> <li>• Applying for SV Community Climate Change &amp; Energy Action Program (Stream 2)</li> </ul> |
| WODONGA    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with consultants to identify evidence-based targets for the rewrite of the Sustainability Strategy has concluded. Currently undergoing internal review to acquire feedback about the identified targets before actual rewrite.</li> <li>• Submitted letter of support to Evie Network to support their grant application for the DCAV program.</li> <li>• 50kW PV system installed on Hyphen – Wodonga’s new library gallery. Publicly accessible live monitoring screen was installed for the Cube’s 90kW PV system to act as a public engagement tool.</li> <li>• Previously developed ESD Factsheets were distributed to builders at display homes to raise awareness about ESD principles among builders and new home owners.</li> <li>• Currently working with Communications team on a fortnightly internal newsletter to improve communication between business units with regards to sustainability.</li> </ul>   |
| GB CMA     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the 29 June the Goulburn Broken CMA released the draft Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (the strategy) for public comment. Individuals, groups and organisations could provide comments on the strategy via the Engage Victoria online survey, three online workshops and/or direct email or phone calls. Along with our usual column in Country News and environmental water ad in the Shepp Adviser, we started a newspaper, radio (Triple MMM and Hit FM) and social media</li> </ul>   |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
|              | <p>campaign to promote the draft Goulburn Broken RCS feedback period. Project staff are now compiling all feedback into a central spreadsheet for discussion with the GB CMA Board, staff and other technical experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful achievement of additional investment from a number of DELWP programs for a Vic CMA project to support co-investment models for carbon offset projects with multiple outcomes. This is an exciting stage in progressing initiatives for CMAs to support agency and other investment in biodiversity and carbon programs. The initial aim is the design of an investment model that enables Water Corporations to meet their Statement of Obligation net zero requirements and maximise catchment outcomes through mixed species biodiversity plantings.</li> <li>• The GB CMA had a climate audit in early August and are awaiting the report to find out how we can add some improvements to business.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>NECMA</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alpine Valleys Dairy Inc now has a climate adaptation road map for the group to work through to meet the challenges of climate change. The group has identified the need for a concerted effort to work through the challenges that have been identified.</li> <li>• A “Disaster recovery and climate change” leadership program has started with 21 delegates enrolled and 3 days of the program delivered. The program designed with support by the Alpine Valleys Community Leadership program is 8 sessions in total and will support the ongoing development of human capital of the region on the climate theme.</li> <li>• The regional Catchment Strategy for the North East is out for comment currently for a period of 8 weeks. There is a considerable focus on climate change and the roles the region undertakes to support the transition to a low carbon environment.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>DELWP</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiona Roberts has commenced in the role of Renewable Energy Engagement and Partnership Officer, supporting Hume region’s transition to renewable energy. Fiona will be leading local engagement on the development of the two Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) in Hume region: <a href="#">Central North Victoria and Ovens Murray</a> (and <a href="#">Development of REZs across Victoria</a>). Please reach out to Fiona for more information: <a href="mailto:fiona.roberts@delwp.vic.gov.au">fiona.roberts@delwp.vic.gov.au</a> or 0436 691 476.</li> <li>• The DELWP Hume team recently supported the release of the VRET II Benefit Sharing Guide updated for renewable energy development in Victoria. It updates the Victorian Government’s expectations for <a href="#">community engagement and benefit sharing practices</a> for renewable energy development in Victoria. The Guide can also be used to inform submissions to the upcoming Second Victorian Renewable Energy Target Auction (VRET2).</li> <li>• The Hume Climate Change Regional Adaptation Strategy (RAS) has been completed and preparing for formal launch. Thank you to everyone who has contributed and worked so hard in developing the RAS.</li> <li>• DELWP Hume have been developing 2021/22 engagement activities under Climate Ready Hume, aligning to the RAS goals and feedback from project partners and the community. We hope to share these with you fully soon, but include another Community mini-grant round and expansion of youth led programs.</li> <li>• DELWP Hume teams have provided feedback to GB and NE CMA RCS consultation, and draft Sector Adaptation Action Plans with consideration to climate change and renewable energy outcomes outlined by Hume community.</li> <li>• We are still hosting a monthly newsletter – please contact <a href="mailto:climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au">climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au</a> to subscribe or if there are any articles you would like us to include.</li> </ul> |
| <p>SV</p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business/small-business-energy-saver-program">https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/energy-efficiency-and-reducing-emissions/in-a-business/small-business-energy-saver-program</a> - GVCE and Indigo Power have been engaged to help businesses in Hume region take part in this program</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/funded-projects/recycling-and-reducing-waste">https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/funded-projects/recycling-and-reducing-waste</a></li> </ul> <p>All the other programs SV are running for recycling and waste listed here – many more than we have heard about</p>   |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
|                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/grants-and-funding/community-power-hubs">https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/grants-funding-and-investment/grants-and-funding/community-power-hubs</a> - announced July 8th – Indigo Power is the lead partner organisation for Hume CPH, working with GVCE, and have identified local government as key stakeholder so there should be some connections being made soon. (SEE NEXT)</li> </ul>   |
| <p>NECEN update</p> | <p>EO keeps in touch with North East Community Energy Network. This is an information sharing and collaboration network. The network is expanding across the Hume – linked with the Hume Community Energy Hub which is run by Indigo Power, with the Goulburn Valley Community Energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NECEN gave me some useful links<br/> <a href="https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/news/foresighting-forum-webinar-two-system-resilience">https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/news/foresighting-forum-webinar-two-system-resilience</a><br/> <a href="https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/publications/resilient-system-resilient-communities-the-connections-that-matter">https://energyconsumersaustralia.com.au/publications/resilient-system-resilient-communities-the-connections-that-matter</a><br/> <a href="https://www.monash.edu/net-zero-initiative/toolbox">https://www.monash.edu/net-zero-initiative/toolbox</a></li> </ul> |

Note the budget will be further developed as the financial transition from GSCC to MSC is finalised.

| 001111 - Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance | PrevYr Current Budget | PrevYr Actuals | Original Budget |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 0010.0011 - Wages : Wages                 | 0                     | 0              | 98,217          |
| 0220.0301 - Telephone : Creditors         | 0                     | 0              | 420             |
| 0250.0301 - Advertising : Creditors       | 0                     | 0              | 3,500           |
| 0270.0301 - Subscriptions : Creditors     | 0                     | 0              | 600             |
| 0271.0301 - Memberships : Creditors       | 0                     | 0              | 1,000           |
| 0280.0301 - Training : Creditors          | 0                     | 0              | 0               |
| 0475.0021 - Travel : Wages Allowances     | 0                     | 0              | 2,933           |
| 0665.0301 - Materials : Creditors         | 0                     | 0              | 600             |
| 1363.0301 - Catering : Creditors          | 0                     | 0              | 2,500           |
| 2010.0301 - Admin Fee : Creditors         | 0                     | 0              | 15,000          |
|   |                       |                |                 |

**Meeting Schedule 2021**

The Ordinary Meeting dates are the third Thursday of the months February, May, August, and November.

|                                    |   |  |                         |
|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| Officer meeting<br>12-3 with lunch | Alliance committee<br>10-12                                     | Ordinary meeting<br>10-2 with lunch      | School holidays<br>2021 |
|                                    | Thurs 11/2/21   |  |                         |
|                                    |   | Thurs 25/2/21 (EGM)                      |                         |
| Mon 26/4/21                        |   |  | 2/4 – 18/4              |
|                                    | Thurs 29/4/21   | Thurs 20/5/21                            |                         |
|                                    |   |  |                         |
| Mon 26/7/21 & 2/8                  | (specifically, about EV project)                                |  | 26/6 – 11/7             |
|                                    |   |  |                         |
|                                    | Thurs 29/7/21   | Thurs 19/8/21 (AGM)                      |                         |
|                                    |   |  |                         |
| Mon 11/10/21                       |   |  | 18/9 - 3/10             |
|                                    | Thurs 21/10/21  | Thurs 18/11/21                           |                         |
|                                    |   | Benalla                                  |                         |
| All officer representatives        | Alliance Committee 4-9<br>members drawn from<br>representatives | Councillors + officer<br>representatives |                         |

| <b>COUNCIL</b> | <b>Invitees Ordinary Meeting 19 August 2021</b>          | <b>Apologies</b>                               |
|----------------|--|--|
| Alpine         | Cr Charlie Vincent, Sarah Buckley                        | Cr Sarah Nicholas                              |
| Benalla        | Adam Saddler   | Cr Gail O'Brien                                |
| Campaspe       | Allison McCallum, Mayor Cr Chrissy Weller                |  |
| DELWP (Hume)   | Kristie Roche,   | Chelsea Cherry Rebecca Briody                  |
| GBCMA          | Bek Caldwell   | Kate Brunt                                     |
| Indigo         | Cr Diane Shepheard, Sam Niedra                           | Cr Sophie Price                                |
| Mansfield      | Cr Rohan Webb, Damien Gerrans                            |  |
| Mitchell       | Cr Louise Bannister, Brendan Garrett, Elyse Kelly        | Mike McIntosh                                  |
| Moira          | James Steinfort  | Cr Maree Martin                                |
| Murrindindi    | Cr John Walsh, Brad Byrne, Julie Kirkwood, Vito Albicini |  |
| NECMA          |  | Helen Wilson, Lachlan Campbell                 |
| Shepparton     | Cr Sam Spinks, Sharon Terry, Marisa O'Halloran           |  |
| Strathbogie    | Cr Sally Hayes-Burke, Cr Paul Murray, Molly Odgers       |  |
| Towong         | Cr Peter Dikschei, Anthony Dufty                         | Rachael Gadd                                   |
| Wangaratta     | Cr Jack Herry,   | Tina Whatley<br>Evelina Dudzinski              |
| Wodonga        | Wei Heng Chan  | Robyn Nicholas Cr Kat<br>Bennett, Leon Schultz |

PRESENTATION Fran McDonald WAGA Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action

## Ensuring Victoria's planning and building systems effectively tackle climate change

### Update

#### Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group

The following organisations have formed a Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group to better manage climate change through Victoria's land-use planning and building systems:

Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)  
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)  
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)  
Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA)  
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)  
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)  
Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)

#### Advocacy goals

To ensure that the Victorian land use planning and building systems:

1. **Deliver land use and development that provides for Victorian communities to be resilient, equitable and safe in a changing climate**
2. **Assist state and local government and other relevant decision-makers to adequately consider the economic, environmental and social risks to communities from climate change when making decisions around future development**
3. **Enable local governments and other relevant organisations to deliver on commitments and pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with what the science tells us we need to do to keep the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees C**
4. **Enable key industry stakeholders who interact with planning and building regulation to adopt practices that build resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

#### The problem

The authorising environment for Victoria's planning and building systems does not adequately require or direct decision-makers to factor in emissions reductions or climate change adaptation when permitting use, development and protection of land in Victoria.

There is a misalignment between the *Local Government Act 2020* (LG Act), the *Climate Change Act 2017* (CC Act) and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&E Act). The LG Act requires councils to prioritise climate change considerations as a guiding principle. The CC Act requires decision-makers to have regard to climate change in decisions taken pursuant to specific listed legislation and policies, but this list does not include the P&E Act. Moreover, Victoria's planning framework, comprising the P&E Act, the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) and associated building regulations, only allows decision-makers to consider climate change in a limited way.

Given the urgency with which climate change should be addressed at a local and state level and the need for transformational adaptation – as recognised and embedded in the CC Act – this misalignment is critical.

Some practical consequences are:

- A danger that current efforts by the Victorian Government to introduce state-based ESD measures, while welcome, may still not meet local governments’ climate goals
- No legislative mandate for the zero carbon targets for new development that a number of Victorian Councils are currently pursuing
- Discouragement for both councils and developers to undertake innovation to improve climate resilience because it may over-reach state policy. A specific problem here is the routine challenge at VCAT to planning decisions perceived to include conditions stricter than the minimum requirements in the state scheme.
- Limited awareness in the planning sector of the role of planning in delivering safe, climate-resilient communities.

These consequences lead directly to negative environmental, social and economic outcomes for communities. Inefficiencies and high emissions are being locked into the built environment. Economic objectives, in post-COVID recovery and other initiatives, are not prioritising climate resilience or zero carbon development.

The solutions should result in an authorising environment aligned with the CC Act and the LG Act, as well as operational levers and performance measures which support decision-makers to take effective action. Ultimately, the aim is to enable climate resilience in the community and reach zero emissions by the most efficient and effective means.

### Proposed action

The Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group aims to undertake the following program of actions:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Stage 1<br>(Jul – Sep 2021)      | <b>Research</b> barriers and opportunities within the current authorising environment for the planning and buildings systems in Victoria to ensure climate change is properly and adequately factored into decisions |
| Stage 2<br>(Oct 2021 – Jan 2022) | Test the evidence with decision-makers in local government and industry and <b>build support for change</b>  |
| Stage 3<br>(Feb – May 2022)      | Formulate and <b>advocate</b> for effective strategies to overcome these barriers and provide solutions, which may include legislative change  |

Stage 1 has commenced with Hansen Partnership conducting this research project.

The consultant is reviewing barriers and opportunities for change in the planning scheme, conducting consultation with key legislative and industry stakeholders, identifying and ranking options in a plan for the advocacy stage.