

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES



Date 18 August 2022

Start 10.45am (following AGM)

Finish 2pm

Location In Person & Online

Executive Officer | Carole Hammond

If joining online: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

If Moving, Seconding, or questioning a Motion, place a comment in the Zoom "Chat Box".

[please note physical presentations may not translate as well online in hybrid meetings]

In attendance:

First Nominated Representative	Second Representative Substitute or Observer	Member Organisation
Cr Rohan Webb CHAIR	Melissa Crane	Mansfield SC
Cr J Walsh	Peter Bain	Murrindindi SC AUSPICE
	Sarah Buckley	Alpine SC
	Bronwyn Chapman Nathan Gasperoni (substitute)	Benalla SC
	Allison McCallum	Campaspe SC
		Goulburn Broken CMA
	Leah Cornell-Morrissey (substitute)	DELWP Hume
	Sam Niedra, Helen Jones (substitute)	Indigo SC
	Narelle Liepa, Elyse Kelly Brendan Garrett (observer)	Mitchell SC
	Scott Draper	Moira SC
	Lachlan Thomas (substitute)	North East CMA
	Sharon Terry [Chair Executive C'ttee] Marisa O'Halloran	Greater Shepparton CC
Cr Paul Murray	Molly Odgers	Strathbogie SC
		Towong SC
Cr Jack Herry	Evelina Dudzinski	Rural City of Wangaratta
Cr John Watson	Robyn Nicholas	City of Wodonga
		Alpine Resort Management Boards (Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Southern Alpine, & Alpine).
	James Bramwell (Observer)	Sustainability Victoria

Apologies to EO (known)

B. Westbrook, D. Cocking, Cr Forsyth, Cr Shephard, Cr Eldridge, J Steinfort, A Dufty, Cr Weller, Cr Spinks, D Cocking, C Cherry.

Acknowledgement of country	We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and come from, the Taungurung, Yorta Yorta, and Wurrundjeri and pay our respects to their Elders past present and emerging.
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AGENDA

10.45	1. WELCOME	CHAIR	
	2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION	CHAIR	
	3. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS	CHAIR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change of day of General Meeting (Towong). 2. GMCA newsletter
10.50	3. PREVIOUS MINUTES	CHAIR	<p>The draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting held online on 19 May have been distributed via email. Draft and endorsed Minutes are also online on the Members' site. New members see the EO for the link.</p>
	<p>MOTION:</p> <p>That the minutes of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance's Ordinary Meeting of 19 May 2022 be endorsed.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Herry Seconded: Cr Watson CARRIED</p> <p>Alliance Chair to sign minutes once endorsed.</p>		
10.52	5. PREVIOUS MEETING ACTIONS	CHAIR	See Appendix 1
11:00	6. Draft logo Design - Presentation	Nerida Hippersley, Flying Pig Design	A draft brand and logo has been created by Flying Pig Design. The Executive Committee have considered and internally voted for a preferred design package to be presented for endorsement at the August General Meeting.
	<p>MOTION:</p> <p>That the draft brand and logo as presented be endorsed for use by the GMCA.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Murray Seconded: Cr Watson CARRIED</p> <p>MOTION:</p> <p>That the Alliance endorse Flying Pig Design to create a "15 Years of Collaborative Climate Action" email footer and that the EO engage members in sharing a social media promotion for the anniversary created by GMCA.</p> <p>Moved: Cr Herry Seconded: Cr Watson CARRIED</p>		
11.20	7. EXECUTIVE OFFICER Quarterly Report	EO	<p>See Appendix 2. Also please see the Executive Officer's Final 21-22 Business Plan Report (included in 2018-22 Report presented for the AGM).</p> <p>Key upcoming actions in new Business Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22-26 Strategic Plan Tour over coming months - New newsletter to help with comms - New SS ESD Planner Sept







			<p>- Reg Arborists Network & the Crs Forum</p> <p>Cr Herry suggested the GMCA explore the introduction of a revolving fund attached to projects.</p> <p>ACTION: EO to convene a meeting with Cr Herry to discuss further.</p>
11.30	<p>8. GOVERNANCE</p> <p>8.1 Exec Committee Report</p> <p>8.3 End of Financial Year Report</p>	<p>Sharon Terry</p> <p>MSC</p>	<p>Special presentation: 15 years of the Alliance</p> <p>See GMCA Financial Report to 30 June 2022 (endorsed in AGM)</p>
11:45	9. Around the Regions	Chair	<p>The August 2022 'Around The Regions' report from all Members.</p> <p>Each Member presented a short verbal update of their highlights at the General Meeting.</p>

12:30 LUNCH BREAK

13.00	10. PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY BATTERY PROJECT	Lachlan Hensey Community Energy Project Officer @ Yarra Energy Foundation	Lachlan presented on YEFs successful community battery in Fitzroy North – the first inner-urban community battery in Victoria -see Yarra Community Battery Project . The recording of the presentation is now on the GMCA YouTube channel .
13.00	<p>11. OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>a) GMCA Newsletter</p> <p>b) Date change</p>	<p>EO</p> <p>Chair</p>	<p>The EO discussed efforts to streamline communications and a number of requests received to start a regular newsletter. Members present expressed preference for a newsletter to be on a monthly basis, and potentially shareable to external stakeholders.</p> <p>ACTION: EO to finalise first newsletter and set a six month point for the Executive Committee to review progress.</p> <p>The Chair received a request from Towong Shire Council to revisit the week-day of the general meetings. A menti voting system was undertaken with those present/online during the meeting, with the preference in favour of meeting on a Thursday.</p> <p>Mon 7%</p> <p>Tue 20%</p> <p>Wed 20%</p> <p>Thurs 53%</p> <p>Fri 0%</p>

2.05pm Close

APPENDIX 1 - ACTIONS ARISING : PROGRESS

Date	 Complete	 in progress	 not commenced	WHO	WHEN	
2022						
Feb 2022	Facilitate regular meets and greets – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chairs of GMCA the Ovens Murray, and Goulburn Regional Partnership (Climate Change & Environment Portfolio). 2. EO and Chair (as available) to organise individual meetings with GMs, Mayors and CEOs of Members. 			EO/Chair	Ongoing (for post Strategic Plan endorsement)	
Feb 2022	Commence development of shared resources ie Sustainable Procurement Policy, briefings, joint procurements, etc. (review after the Strategic Plan endorsed with assistance of a Working Group).			EO	Ongoing Shared Sustainable Subdivisions Planner advertised	
May 2022	That the EO seek the assistance of a professional designer to review the GMCA logo design, during the design of the Strategic Plan.			EO	Draft completed	

APPENDIX 2 – EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT: AUGUST 2022

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS August 2022	UPCOMING ACTIONS	Who
Naturally Cooler Towns	Research project across all GMCA member municipality urban forests, investigating benchmarks, climate-ready species, gap analysis, cost etc of implementation. Includes presentations of findings.	Project commenced 4/10/21 and finalised Feb '22 Stage 2 will be the new Network once the 22-26 Strategic Plan is endorsed.	Arborists Network to be created by the GMCA for ongoing management by the new network	EO
GMCA Strategic Plan	Complete the 2022-2026 GMCA Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan for endorsement at the August 2022 Meeting of the Alliance.	Consultants Leah Sertori and Ameeta Jain were engaged in Dec 2021. Workshop held 17 Feb 2022. A Strategic Plan PCG was convened to advise going forward. Draft Strategic Plan has been endorsed by EC for presentation and endorsement by the Alliance.	Design occurred in July. Endorsed by EC/Alliance	EO EC Alliance
Sustainable Subdivisions	Shared service model to enable GMCA Sustainable Subdivisions Framework and sustainable land use	EO presented to GMCA Executive Committee, and discussed with CASBE. Eight of nine SSF councils signed up to initiative. The DELWP Regional Planning Hub initiative was applied to and accepted for co-funding of a FT 12month shared position (GMCA ESD Planning Advisor). Heads of Agreement was signed early May. Funding Agreement signed by MSC 10/5.	Advertised in July with applications to be reviewed in 1 st week August.	EO, MSC, DELWP
Ausnet Public Lighting Replacements	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). Wodonga and Alpine already underway.	Preliminary meetings have occurred with Ausnet and EO has organized an online “101” meeting with councils, Ironbark and EAGA, as well as Sth Gippsland Council who has finalized their process.	EO set up a meeting between GMCA councils and Ironbark, EAGA, Sth Gippsland to share info and ask/answer general questions on 1 st August.	EO
GMCA Return on Investment data	Development of ROI and NPV details of all GMCA projects from Watts Working Better on. This will provide solid information to members on the GMCAs value in financial, environmental, and other non-financial terms, and help guide our choices re projects etc.	Historical project information has been sourced, including grant funding, co-contributions, and annual ghg savings etc.	Awaiting members to feed back data post EOFY ie actual financial savings for energy.	EO
Advocacy Submissions	MAV / Victorian Greenhouse Alliances collaborative advocacy letter. 'Planning for a Safe Climate' campaign	Draft MAV/VGA/CASBE Advocacy Letter - May	Currently lining up meetings for various PFASC participants.	

	Submission on the Vic 2035 Interim Emissions Target	Draft VGA Submission 2035 Interim Target		
Carbon Farming Workshops	Undertaken by Carbon Farming Australia in Albury at their annual conference.	EO attended on 2 separate days 23 and 26 May. Highly attended with a lot of interest in the subject matter from landowners. However not a lot of information available.	See BehaviourWorks project below.	
GMCA Website Stats	<p>Page views 1023 (-7% from last 90 days)</p> <p>Unique visits 458 (-14% from last 90 days)</p> <p>Av pages per unique visit 2.19 (+4% from last 90 days)</p> <p>Most referrals are via google.com, but some came from Shepparton, Murrindindi, and the Vic Greenhouse Alliances site.</p>	Homepage and contact page most popular with our advocacy page very popular also. Of our project pages Naturally Cooler Towns, Climate Smart Ag, and Carbon Crunching Councils pages are most popular.	Please put your connection to GMCA and a link on your website!	

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Body	Grant Opportunity	Status
DELWP Regional Planning Hub	Planning support for regional and rural councils (SSF funding) ongoing	The program is new, and is managed by Regional Planning Partnerships. This team works with rural and regional councils to grow and realise economic development. GMCA applied and was granted funds (via Murrindindi SC as auspice) to support the Sustainable Subdivisions shared service Pilot.
GBCMA Climate Ready Hume	Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy Seed Funding Grants Find out more here Closed 31 May 2022	BehaviourWorks (Monash Uni) was successful in their application to GBCMA with the GMCA's support, to undertake a project "Does participation in environmental markets build climate resilience?", reviewing knowledge about environmental markets (carbon credits etc) and climate resilience, risk and opportunities for land managers in our catchment, and strategies and support to help. Outcomes include a report, video, forum, leading to potential Environmental Markets Leadership Program for land managers. GMCA will help organise the forum (and members will be invited to attend).
Emergency Management Victoria	Risk and Resilience Grants Program Closed 4 July More info here	GMCA applied to the Risk and Resilience Grant program to undertake an Asset Vulnerability Assessment initiative similar to the SECCCA programme of 2021 . Eight councils have signed up to participate (Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wodonga) with

		CSIRO as a partner and Insurance Council of Australia as supporter. An outcome will be known in Sept/Oct 2022.
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COMMITTEES, STRATEGIC MEETINGS, & ADVOCACY

Committee	Date	Purpose
Victorian Greenhouse Alliances	Bi-monthly	To coordinate advocacy, united projects, the conference, and messaging across the climate change greenhouse alliances.
Ausnet Community Consultative Committee	Monthly	Meeting on 19/7/22: Includes reps from AusNet, Renew, Clean Energy Council, Aust Industry Group, Energy Users Assoc of Aust, St Vincent de Paul, Aust Energy Council and the Energy and Water Ombudsman.
Victorian Energy Collaboration Steering Group	Quarterly	VECO is now auspiced by Glen Eira council which has taken over this role from Darebin. Discussion on energy load of VECO, new councils joining, members increasing their load (unlimited flexibility to do so under the contract), and the use of the fund for innovative mitigation projects.
Climate Change in the Planning System Advocacy by Alliances PCG	Fortnightly	Election campaign to amend the disconnect between high level policy positions on climate change, both by State and local government, and the day-to-day decisions that are being made in the planning system. Planning decisions influence carbon emissions and the living conditions of communities for generations to come. The Greenhouse Alliances have undertaken a substantial, and extensively consulted gap analysis of Victoria's planning system and have prioritised recommended changes, including legislative amendments, for the Victorian Government.
Climate Partners Advisory Group DELWP	Quarterly	Regional cross government meeting coordinated by DELWP Hume including DELWP, EPA, GV Water, CMAs, NE Water, Parks, Health, Alpine Resorts, Transport, and Murray Darling Basin Authority, along with some councils.
Moira Env Sust Advisory Committee	Quarterly	Advisory Meeting on Moira Environment Strategy. 27/7/22
Member engagement	June-Aug	One on one catch ups with Mansfield, DELWP, Murrindindi, Strathbogie. Organising roadtrip to document and promote successful EV project of installed chargers across the regions, and catchup on-site, once COVID permits and will coordinate this with the new Strategic Plan roll out.
MAV and Alliances Engagement	Monthly	Coordinating an aligned MAV/VGA advocacy position, with short advocacy letter to go to Premier and various MPs, as well as some bureaucrats.

North East Regional Sustainability Alliance NERSA	Quarterly	Quarterly Meeting with regional hub of community stakeholders. Presenting at the October meeting.
Victorian Climate Resilient Councils - Project Advisory Group	12 May	Funding has been applied for to roll out this adaptation program with councils.
Indigo Power: Aggregated Community- Scale Battery Storage in NE Vic Steering Group	No recent meetings	Funded by Dept Industry Science, Energy and Resources. Inaugural project not yet started.