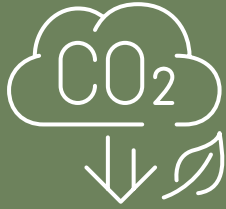


GOULBURN
MURRAY
°CLIMATE
ALLIANCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

YEAR AT A GLANCE



tCO₂e
AVOIDED

84,436



SAVINGS FROM
GMCA PROJECTS

\$9.3m



FORMAL ADVOCACY
SUBMISSIONS

8

OUR VISION

Our region is net carbon positive and prepared for the impacts of climate change.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

As chairperson of the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, I am pleased to present the GMCA's 2023/2024 annual report.

This financial year has been one of continued environmental challenges for GMCA members as last year's contributing El Nino faded, but July 22, 2024 going on record as the hottest day in recorded human history, with a global average temperature of 17.16°C. May and June 2024 were both the hottest ever recorded and we learned that 2023 was 1.48°C warmer than the 1850-1900 average as recorded by the Copernicus Climate Change Service. It is a glaring reminder of why GMCAs work is so important in working to avoid and sink emissions, and adapt to the changes in our climate that are inevitable.

With this in mind, GMCA has certainly undertaken an effective range of projects, keeping residents and business firmly front-of-mind. Our Executive Officer, Carole Hammond has provided a clear structure and guidance for the many projects and initiatives that the GMCA has driven or participated in for the benefit of our members.

Some 11 councils participated in, and completed our Resilient Public Estate project, which received funding under the National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction. This was a proactive project developing tools and understanding to model climate impacts on local government assets, and modelling this against capital works that best safeguard the assets' longevity and don't over or under spend precious budget funds. The team reviewed roads, bridges, open space, buildings and drainage. Councils are now actively using these tools to inform their annual budget decisions into the future.

Another key long-term project, the shared Sustainable Subdivisions Planning Advisor, completed its second year. The program delivered a number of subdivision assessments, environmentally sustainable development policy advice, and a number of building assessments using the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard tool.

The delivery of two developer forums which each had over 110 participants was the capstone to a very successful second year.

Some 32 staff and councillors from 13 of our members attended a very successful Victorian Greenhouse Alliance conference this year, which every year is coordinated together with other Victorian Alliances from across the State. The event consisted of nearly 400 attendees, keynote speakers, workshops, and discussions. It is a unique forum for sharing ideas, reflecting on projects across the sector. Speakers from Mitchell Shire Council, North East CMA, and Murrindindi Shire Council were obvious highlights. Another high point was the opening keynote from Dr Bronwyn Gresham of Psychology for a Safe Climate – a topic all of us working in this sector paid close attention to.

This year we commenced planning in earnest for Goulburn Murray Solar Savers, which is set to launch in November 2024. This program includes a fully vetted installer and products and is designed to take the stress out of resident's biggest home investments, which coincidentally are also our best hope of avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and high energy bills.

GMCA accomplishes much with very little resources and is a source of pride for all of our rural and regional members. We look forward to an equally impactful 2025.



Cr Sam Spinks,
Greater Shepparton
City Council

GMCA Chairperson

2023/24 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ELEVEN COUNCILS COMPLETED 'A RESILIENT PUBLIC ESTATE'



In 2023/24 11 councils in the GMCA completed 12 months of A Resilient Public Estate, a large-scale climate-change adaptation project which modelled the impact of future climate changes upon critical local government infrastructure such as roads, bridges, public buildings, street trees and open space. The project developed tools that pairs various modelled climate data with a council's financial information, providing detailed cost-benefits of replacement vs upgrade vs maintenance vs repair – which can be reviewed within a climate constrained context.

EIGHT MEMBERS COMPLETED REGIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD BATTERY BUSINESS CASES



The 'Regional Greenhouse Alliance Neighbourhood Battery Investigation Project' was one of nine projects to be awarded funding through the Victorian Government's Neighbourhood Battery Initiative in 2023. Each project intends to add to the resilience of local communities where the batteries are located. Alpine, Benalla, Campaspe, Mansfield, Murrindindi, and Strathbogie Shire councils, the Rural City of Wangaratta, and Alpine Resorts Victoria all successfully completed a business case for a neighbourhood battery in their regions during 2024. Each are now reviewing timing and budget opportunities for battery installation.

SIX COUNCILS ENGAGED A SHARED SUSTAINABLE SUBDIVISIONS ESD ADVISOR FOR A SECOND YEAR



In 2023/24 GMCA and six of its local government members again received funding from the Victorian Government's Regional Planning Hub to enable co-funding of the Shared SSF ESD Planning Advisor. The Shire councils of Alpine, Indigo, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie, as well as the Rural City of Wangaratta supported this initiative.

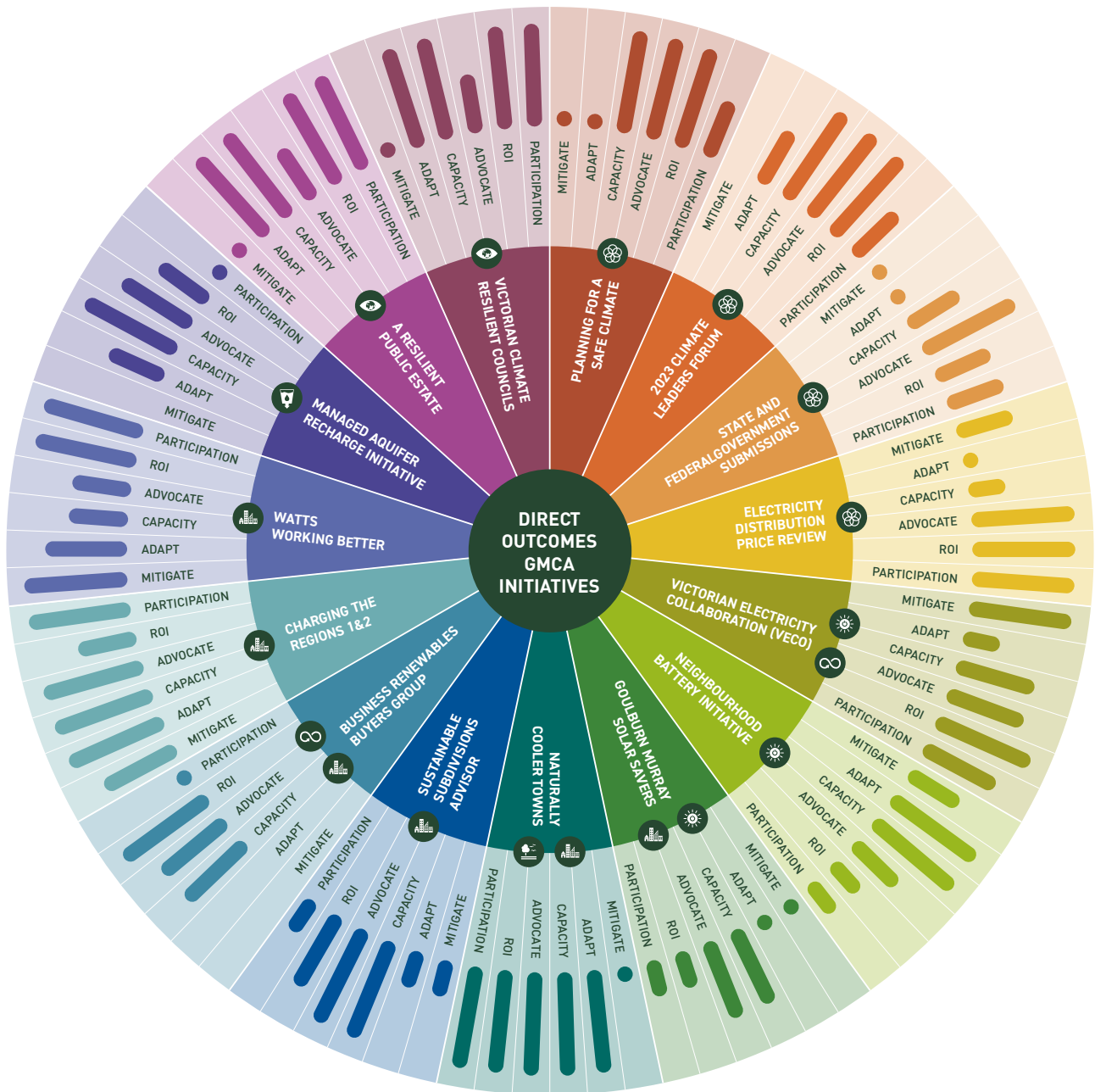
GMCA has managed this role since it commenced two years ago which has assessed 21 regional subdivisions on live Council applications, as well as a number of built form environmentally sustainable design assessments. Two online Developer Forums were also held this year, which drew over 200 industry participants.

SIX COUNCILS DEVELOPED 'GOULBURN MURRAY SOLAR SAVERS'



Six GMCA councils joined to develop Goulburn Murray Solar Savers (GMSS) which launches in late 2024. The program is a regional version of the successful EAGA-led Solar Savers program. Alpine, Indigo, Mitchell, Murrindindi, and Strathbogie Shire councils, and Greater Shepparton City Council came together with GMCA to create a platform with a fully vetted installer and products for homeowners and business to access. The goal is to take the uncertainty out of purchasing big-ticket energy efficient items and give residents high quality, and peace of mind, and in so doing increase community energy security and reduce GHG emissions.

Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance has been undertaking large scale climate change projects since 2007. Whilst our goals focus on directly impacting greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation, capacity building of staff, and advocacy to governments, it is also important to map return on investment and participation – both of members and communities. GMCA supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and includes them within its targets.



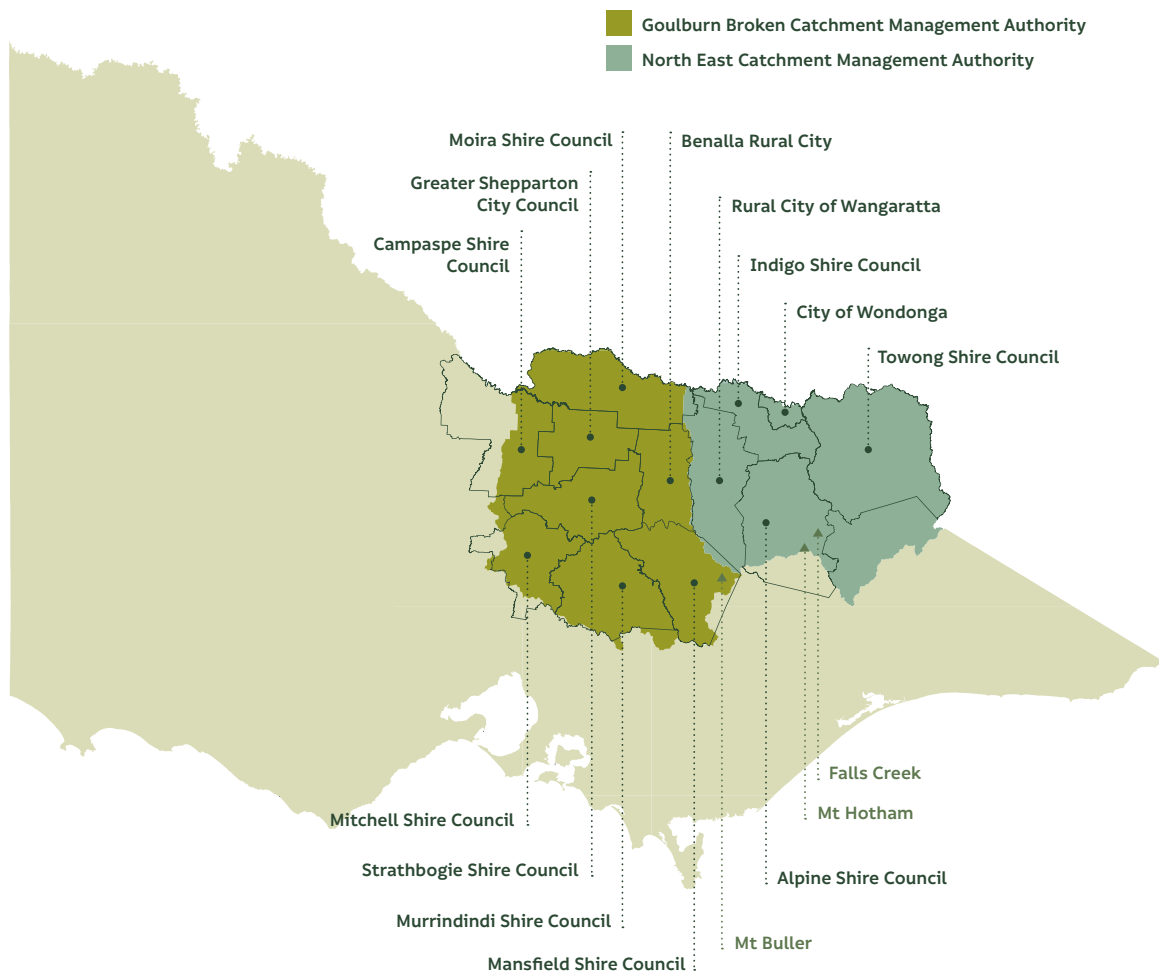
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ABOUT US

The Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance is a formal collaboration of 13 local government councils, two Catchment Management Authorities, Alpine Resorts Victoria, and an informal collaboration with DEECA Hume.

The Alliance has worked together for the last 17 years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase climate change adaptation, build the capacity of our members across climate change action, and to advocate to governments on matters of climate significance within our purview.



2023/24 FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	Membership Contributions	\$169,925	
	SSF Grant and Member Co-contributions	\$93,210	
	A Resilient Public Estate Grant Instalment ¹	\$70,141	
	CSIRO Managed Aquifer Recharge	\$18,000	
		\$351,276	
EXPENSES	Wages and Oncosts	\$140,413	
	Staff Training	–	
	Contractors and Services	\$1,200	
	Projects	\$4,723	
	Subscriptions and Memberships	\$813	
	Auspice Council Administration Cost	\$15,000	
	Advertising	–	
	Telephone and Internet	\$588	
	Support	–	
	General Materials	–	
	Catering Costs	\$942	
	Travel Costs	–	
	Software Purchase	\$1,697	
	Sustainable Subdivisions Advisor Contract	\$93,210	
	A Resilient Public Estate Project ²	\$207,676	
	CSIRO MAR Workshops ³	\$5,753	
		-\$472,015	
		2023/24 Deficit	-\$120,739
		Trust and Rollover Holdings	
		Opening GMCA Trust balance 1st July 2023	\$56,158
	A Resilient Public Estate Grant opening balance 1 July 2023	\$138,224	
	2023/24 Adjusted Surplus	\$73,643	
	Closing Balance Operations	\$4,549	
	Closing Balance Grants and Projects	\$12,936	

Notes to the financial statement year ended 30 June 2024

1. \$40,118 final instalment paid in 2024/25 financial year
2. Final payments for project
3. Multi-year project

CONTACT

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