

**Ordinary meeting of the GOULBURN MURRAY CLIMATE ALLIANCE
on Thursday 20th May 2021, 10 am - 2 pm
Meeting held at hubs and via zoom**

Minutes

Attendees (Councillor, officer representatives)

Sarah Buckley, Cr Leanne Pentreath, Allison McCallum, Cr Shephard, Helen Jones, Cr Webb, Bridgette Brocklesby, Cr Bannister, Elyse Kelly, Brendan Garrett, James Steinfort, Brad Byrne, Julie Kirkwood, Cr Spinks, Dannielle Murdoch, Sharon Terry, Cr Murray, Molly Odgers, Cr Dikschei, Rachael Gadd, Cr Herry, Evelina Dudzinski, Robyn Nicholas, Kristy Roche, Bek Caldwell, Bronwyn Chapman.
Guests - Wei Heng Chan, James Bramwell

1. Welcome by Chairperson

2. Acknowledgment

Cr Sam Spinks (GSCC)

3. Apologies (EO)

Cr Vincent, Cr Nicholas, Cr O'Brien, Mayor Cr Weller, Cr Bennett, Cr Simpfendorfer, Cr Martin, Cr Price, Cr Hayes-Burke, Cr Walsh, Damien Gerrans, Nathalie Cooke, Chelsea Cherry, Vito Albicini, Paul Dainton, Monique Tinoco, Tina Whatley, Kate Brunt, Helen Wilson, Lachlan Campbell

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflict of interest was declared

5. Endorsement of minutes from previous meeting (Thursday 25 February 2021)

The minutes were distributed via email.

Available on members section of GMCA website. gbga.com.au (password Climateaction#7)

MOTION That the Minutes for the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance Ordinary meeting of 25 February 2021, as distributed, be confirmed.

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

Cr Webb, Cr Murray

CARRIED

6. Additional agenda items – call for additional items

7. Action Progress – Previous Meetings

see page 5

8. Project and Funding Report

see page 8/9

9. Advocacy Report

see page 6/7

10. GMCA (GBGA) Business Plan 2020-21 – Progress report attached
11. GOVERNANCE
10.1 Alliance Committee Report

Robyn Nicholas (Chair) (CoW)

At its meeting of May 4, the Alliance Committee appointed:

Chairperson Robyn Nicholas

Deputy Chairperson Evelina Dudzinski

Change of name and domain name – progress

The committee has investigated suitable domain names. The obvious domain gmca.com.au is not available. The domain name of gmclimatealliance.com.au has been selected.

Changes to the domain and website will start in June to prepare for the new Murrindindi auspice.

10.2 Progress of Auspice Transition

Brad Byrne (MSC)

Acceptance of auspice by GMCA	EGM February 2021
Adoption of new MoU and Rules of Operation by members	EGM February 2021
MOU sent for signature by member organisations	May 6, 2021
Members consider and sign MOU to join GMCA from 2021-25	May-June 2021
Transition of auspice from Greater City of Shepparton to new auspice	Feb-July 2021
Building awareness and support – EO presents to each member	Feb-June 2021
New membership period begins	1 July 2021

The Progress of the MOU has proceeded to this plan.

MOTION That the Alliance Committee report be accepted

Cr Webb, Cr Murray

CARRIED
10.3 Financial Report

Sharon Terry (GSCC)

Report to end of April will be presented at the meeting

see page 10

MOTION That the Financial report be accepted

Cr Webb, Robyn Nicholas

CARRIED
12. Around the GMCA Region - Round table reports from members

Discussion on topics of interest – see attached

13. Strategic Planning - Presentations

A recording of these presentations is available on members section of GMCA website. gbga.com.au (password Climateaction#7)

Victorian Climate Change Strategy 2021

DELWP Policy unit

Dr Stephen Pollard | A/manager | Government emissions| Environment and Climate Change
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

E: stephen.pollard@delwp.vic.gov.au 0450 690 795

(alternate contact Julie Richmond, Acting Director | Climate Change

Climate Change Division | Energy, Environment and Climate Change | Department of
Environment, Land, Water and Planning

E: julie.richmond@delwp.vic.gov.au 0428 612 947

Regional Adaptation Strategy (public consultation version)

Kristy Roche (Hume DELWP)

Kristy Roche

Community and Partnerships Program Officer | Hume Region

Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

E: kristy.roche@delwp.vic.gov.au 03 5761 1509

Health Impacts relating to Climate Change

Dianna McDonald (SV) (11.45)

Dianna McDonald

Social Research Lead | Community Action

Sustainability Victoria

Dianna.McDonald@sustainability.vic.gov.au 03 8626 8763

Climate Change and Health and Wellbeing Planning

Grace Reilly (DHHS) (12.10)

Grace Reilly

Project Officer, Climate and Health, Environmental Health Policy & Risk Management Unit

Health Protection Branch | Public Health Division

Department of Health

E. grace.reilly@health.vic.gov.au 03 9500 6471

Vanora Mulvenna

Manager Climate and Health, Environmental Health Policy & Risk Management Unit

Health Protection Branch, Public Health Division

Department of Health

E. vanora.mulvenna@health.vic.gov.au

BREAK NETWORKING LUNCH (provided at hubs)

14. Strategic Discussion

Notes from the discussion:

What criteria can members use to evaluate the inclusion of climate related actions in policies?

- Effectiveness of programs
- Long term sustainability and longevity
- Return on investments – not just \$\$, but benefits demonstrated
- Pervasive reach – more than just the environment officers' job, should be organisation wide

What are key strategic issues members will be considering relating to climate impacts?

- ESD Policy and templates to assess new and existing Council buildings
- Also improving ESD outcomes in the broader planning scheme
- Community energy to improve energy reliability and resilience including community batteries and local energy management to counter grid constraint issues that affect rooftop solar
- Improving ESD outcomes through education and advocacy (will need to define scope of education)
- Embedding climate action throughout the organisation's operation and services - responsibility of more than just the environment officer
- Emergency Management challenge due to increased events
- Procurement – including sustainability and emission reduction in an effective way
- Providing education and information and encouraging community participation in projects
- Health and Education – need to define what is Council and GMCA role to improve outcomes
- Improved information about climate change for local areas and sectors
- Infrastructure – are there methods and examples that quantify the extra cost of construction and maintenance due to climate change eg bridges designed for greater flood flows, washouts of roads and bridges? Extra degradation of bitumen seals due to higher average temperatures?

Where can the Alliance add value and assist? What areas of action and information?

- Consistent monitoring framework around climate action specifically – measurable and benchmarkable
- Information sharing and assisting collaborative action
- Set out the timeline of upcoming projects to improve individual council planning















CLOSE

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

NEXT MEETING Thurs 19/8/21 (AGM) in Benalla

MEETING CLOSED 2pm

- MEETINGS ACTION TABLE UPDATE

Date	ACTION  Complete  in progress  not commenced	WHO	WHEN	
2019				
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	
OM Aug	EO to produce an advocacy paper for the GMCA.	EO	reported Feb 2021	
2020	Ordinary Meetings			
Feb 19	EO to prioritise development of the Communications and Engagement Plan in the action plan. Subcommittee of Alliance Committee to assist	EO	TBD	
May 21	Electric Vehicle Charge Station Network project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forward a checklist and information to officers to assist identification of possible public and private sites for EV charge stations • contact economic development units to encourage involvement • prepare information for a policy discussion 	EO	Discussed at Officers Meetings Report complete	
Dec 17	EO to engage Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance EV project officer to evaluate proposed locations for electric vehicle charge stations and report to GMCA officers. Value of work up to \$4000 from GMCA funds.		Received information	
Dec 17	Conduct an EOI in January to gauge interest in a regional project.	EO	Draft prepared	
Dec 17	Include potential AC charge station locations in the study	EO	General info	
Dec 17	EO to compile examples of decisions made by Councils to purchase EVs, including considerations when leasing council fleet.- see below	EO		
2021	Ordinary Meetings			
Feb 25	EO to investigate and report on these actions when the NAGA Guide is released. (Distributing to all councillors and suitability for community groups)	EO	Emailed info 12/3 & 17/3	
Feb 25	EO to compile list of dates that Councils plan to finalise the Council Plan	EO	See below	

Council Plan dates

June – indigo, wangaratta, wodonga

October – towong, alpine, benalla, mansfield, murrindindi, mitchell, strathbogrie, shepparton, moira, campaspe (sept)

Most councils intend to combine the Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The EO understands three intend to have a separate Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
 moira, mitchell, murrindindi

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/NDEV and Climate works EV evaluation tools.

Benalla Council is investigating leasing of EVs.

Learning Opportunities

“Remobilise” (Evenergi proposal to ARENA for heavy vehicle joint purchase) is progressing, 30 councils around Australia expressing interest. (Daniel Hilson, Founder and CEO, dhinson@evenrgi.com)

WAGA - project to prepare a business case for transition including (1) a regional roadmap and (2) detailed analysis of individual transition requirements for each participating council

ADVOCACY REPORT APRIL 2021

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

Advocacy and submissions Jan-April 2021

Environmentally Sustainable Development of Buildings and Subdivisions: A roadmap for Victoria's planning system.

This was discussed at the December Ordinary meeting.

Key points

- Supported CASBE submission (Council Alliance for Sustainable Built Environment)
- Commented on Renewable Energy, Transport, Water, Materials, Urban Heat, Landscaping and Biodiversity
- Advocated for support and resources for regional councils

Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) Discussion Paper

This was a very technical paper. The EO sent some questions to the enquiry email address but did not get a reply.

Key Points

- It was not clear what the proposed State level network upgrades and enhancements meant to regional development.
- Raised questions about the benefits and impacts of the proposed projects in the REZ areas
- Advocated for early and improved consultation, to improve the social capital needed to support large scale projects.
- Recommendations about the role of new agency VicGrid eg consultation, benefit sharing, planning to take account of fire and storm risk with contingency plans

Victoria Parliamentary Inquiry into Air Pollution

Key Points

- Smoke pollution from increasing fire events can only be reduced by significant greenhouse gas reduction (of order 60-70% by 2030)
- Advocated priority for the Solar Vic household heater upgrade program in northern Vic, based on priorities for vulnerable households recommended in Northern Vic Firewood and Home Heating project (2018)

UPCOMING

Hume Regional Adaptation Plan – released for consultation Closes 25 May

Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry communities tackling climate change 2019 (final government response)

Victorian Alliances are lobbying for funding support as the panel recognised the effective work of alliances and recommended support.

Joint Advocacy in Planning by Victorian Alliances to prioritise zero emissions development in the Planning Scheme.

The Victorian Alliances have joined with CASBE to form the Climate Change and Planning Group was formed to explore, consider, develop and advocate for solutions to address climate change and support Victoria's commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions through the planning and building systems.

- Stage 1 (April – August 2021) - Investigate the barriers to addressing climate change and reaching zero emissions in the planning and building systems, focusing on the authorising environment provided by the legislation (funded by metro alliances)
- Stage 2 (Approx. September – December 2021) - Test the evidence with decision-makers in local government and industry
- Stage 3 (Approx. January 2022 – October 2022) - Develop and deliver an advocacy campaign for effective strategies to overcome these barriers and provide solutions, which may include legislative change.

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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 MAY 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 Reported Ordinary meeting Dec 2020	Project Host: Strathbogie Shire FUNDED \$60,000 (DELWP Climate Ready Hume Regional Grants) RFQ in final stage	Release RFQ. Form reference group Organise officer support for project.	M Odgers EO
Charging the regions	Electric Vehicle Charge Station Network for the GMCA region Project developed Formal EOI sent to councils April 2021	All council members have expressed interest for a collaborative project to install high speed EV chargers. EO has informed DELWP Energy projects and programs unit that GMCA is ready with a developed project Officers have developed a list of possible sites which have received guidance from the project officer from the CVGA EV charger project and Ausnet.	Continue advocacy to the state Seek Lead Council to host the project.	EO
Main Roads Streetlights *	Stage 1 Business Cases complete for changeover of HPS and MV lights to LEDs– all reports distributed to councils. Material available in Members section of GMCA website Advocacy made to Vic govt for VicRoads to pay (offer payback over 6-8 years)	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, wangeratta, wodonga) Powercor proposes to replace 80 MV lights in normal maintenance with 60W LED. Decorative MV (both areas) - council will be required to provide extra funds for upgrade. No grants available for upgrade of HP lights.	EO to liaise between Ausnet councils, Ausnet and Ironbark	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	Briefings to May Alliance meeting	EO
ESD in planning scheme - subdivision	Process to improve sustainable subdivision design in regional councils. Stage 1 was Proof of Concept and Cost Benefit Analysis Stage 2 - develop framework tool to assess subdivisions for ESD elements	The project group (with project lead City of Wodonga) continues. In stage 3 councils are testing this framework in practice.	EO monitor progress	EO

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Ongoing 46 VIC COUNCILS	PPA to purchase renewable energy	Lead council Darebin. GBGA councils involved are Shepparton, Moira, Campaspe. Indigo, Alpine, Strathbogie, Wodonga. (note Mitchell council joined an earlier PA PPA) Councils have joined the final contract for 9.5 years, to purchase renewable energy linked to wind farms.	VECO (Vic Energy Collaboration) launch 20 May and ongoing media.	
Vic Alliances	The EO liaises with other alliances on several projects	Carbon reduction in Planning Scheme (see advocacy report) Going Off Gas (Moreland and WAGA) Fleet planning (WAGA and member councils)		
Hume Region Adaptation Strategy	DELWP leads this regional project in the next 2 years.	Draft will be released for comment in April 2021. Closes 25 May 2021	EO represents GMCA in this project and facilitate communication	EO
EDPR Advocacy Electricity Distribution Price Review	The Alliances analysed the proposal that distribution companies made to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) The AER has recognised the submission by reducing a number of ongoing charges, avoiding price rises for councils.	This work results in <i>avoided cost</i> for streetlighting in the GMCA region: (1) operating costs 2021-26 \$ 876,600 (2) capital charge for recovery of the regulatory asset base (RAB) of public lighting assets 2026-46 \$1,750,500 Individual impacts for each council are estimated here . Contribution by the EO in negotiations directly led to a co-funding project by Ausnet to replace outdated MV lights, worth around \$2m to these 10 councils in Ausnet area.	Outcomes reported in email 12/5/2021	EO
Ongoing		EO to be alert to opportunities for GMCA to assist RWRRGs with advocacy regarding waste to energy and recycling of solar panels	Watching brief	EO

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT	GRANT OPPORTUNITY	Status
EV charge stations-regional	Victorian government announced funding pool	Grant conditions being finalised by DELWP (Energy projects and programs unit)
Upgrade HPS main road lights to LED	Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding allows for streetlight works VicRoads has offered to pay back their share of cost over 10 years.	GMCA has completed Business Case study. In May 2021, Ausnet has offered to co-fund upgrade of MV light to LED lights. EO will coordinate meeting for Ausnet councils (EAGA and SECCA)
EMV	Risk and Resilience Grants Program	Up to \$250,000

GMCA FINANCIAL REPORT TO END APRIL 2021

YTD For Period to 30 April 2021

Full Work Order	30/06/2021 Budget	2020/2021 YTD Actuals	2020/2021 Budget Remaining
Grand Total	26,876	(26,798)	53,674
INCOME			
W5545.1.270 - GMCA Monetary Contributions	(122,324)	(122,024)	(300)
Total INCOME	(122,324)	(122,024)	(300)
EXPENSE			
W5545.20.300 -.Salaries and Wages	95,356	81,110	14,246
W5545.20.334 - Staff Training	aa2,500	0	2,500
W5545.20.340 - Management.Oncost	13,347	11,081	2,266
W5545.20.400 - Contractors and Services	1,735	1,735	0
W5545.20.411 - Memberships	1,000	0	1,000
W5545.20.412 - Periodicals Publications and Subs	600	311	289
W5545.20.428 - Advertising Marketing Promotions	1,000	0	1,000
W5545.20.444 - Grants Donations Contributions (admin fee to GSCC)	22,240	0	22,240
W5545.20.445 - Telephone and Internet	382	95	287
W5545.20.499 - External Hire	820	0	820
W5545.20.501 - General Materials Purchased	1,000	894	106
W5545.20.561 - Software Purchase & Upgrade	500	0	500
W5545.20.570 - Catering Costs	2,255	0	2,255
W5545.20.571 - Travel Costs	6,465	0	6,465
Total EXPENSE	149,200	95,226	53,974

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Meeting Schedule 2021

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

Officer meeting 12-3 with lunch	Alliance committee 10-12	Ordinary meeting 10-2 with lunch	School holidays 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 19/7/21			26/6 – 11/7
	Thurs 29/7/21	Thurs 19/8/21 (AGM)	
		BENALLA	
Mon 11/10/21			18/9 - 3/10
	Thurs 21/10/21	Thurs 18/11/21	
		Location TBC	
All officer representatives	Alliance Committee 4-9 members drawn from representatives	Councillors + officer representatives	

COUNCIL	Attendees Ordinary Meeting 20 May 2021	Apologies
Alpine	Sarah Buckley	Cr Vincent, Cr Nicholas,
Benalla		Cr O'Brien
Campaspe	Allison McCallum, Cr Pentreath	Mayor Cr Weller
DELWP (Hume)	Kristie Roche, Deb Lange	Chelsea Cherry
GBCMA	Bek Caldwell	Kate Brunt
Indigo	Cr Diane Shepheard	Cr Sophie Price
Mansfield	Cr Rohan Webb, Bridgette Brocklesby	Damien Gerrans
Mitchell	Cr Louise Bannister, Brendan Garrett, Elyse Kelly	
Moira	James Steinfert	Cr Maree Martin
Murrindindi	Brad Byrne, Julie Kirkwood	Cr John Walsh, Vito Albicini
NECMA		Lachlan Campbell, Helen Wilson
Shepparton	Cr Sam Spinks, Sharon Terry, Dannielle Murdoch	Paul Dainton,
Strathbogie	Cr Murray, Molly Odgers	Cr Sally Hayes-Burke
Towong	Cr Dikschei, Rachael Gadd	Monique Tinoco
Wangaratta	Cr Herry, Evelina Dudzinski,	Tina Whatley
Wodonga	Robyn Nicholas	Cr Bennett, Cr Simpfendorfer
SV (guest)	James Bramwell	

Attendance Location

Shepparton -Sharon Terry, Dannielle Murdoch, Cr Spinks, Cr Herry, James Steinfert, Allison McCallum

Euroa – Cr Murray, Molly Odgers, Bronwyn Chapman, Helen Jones

Remote - Brendan Garrett, Elyse Kelly, Brigitte Brocklesby, Cr Bannister, Cr Dikschei, Cr Shepheard, Cr Webb, Cr Pentreath, Evelina Dudzinski, Julie Kirkwood, Kristy Roche, Rachael Gadd, Sarah Buckley, Robyn Nicholas, Wei Heng Chan, James Bramwell