

MINUTES

Date 7th March 2022

Start 12noon **Finish** 3 pm

Location Wangaratta library: 21 Docker St, Wangaratta VIC 3677
Executive Officer, Carole Hammond

Invited		
	Melissa Crane	Mansfield SC
		Murrindindi SC [GMCA auspice]
	Bronwyn Westbrook	Alpine SC
	Bronwyn Chapman	Benalla SC
		Campaspe SC
		DELWP Hume [Associate]
	Sam Niedra,	Indigo SC
	Elyse Kelly	Mitchell SC
	James Steinfort	Moira SC
		North East CMA
	Marisa O'Halloran Melani Samara	Greater Shepparton
	Molly Odgers	Strathbogie SC
		Towong SC
	Evelina Dudzinski	Rural City of Wangaratta
	Robyn Nicholas	City of Wodonga
		Sustainability Vic (guest)
	Amy Robertson	Alpine Resorts

Apologies (known) Tina Whatley, Leigh Harrison, Rachael Gadd, Zoe Blakeney, Brendan Garrett, Leon Schultz, Murrindindi SC, Paul Dainton, Allison McCallum, Daniel Cocking, Carolyn Suggate

Acknowledgement of country

We wish to acknowledge the traditional, unceded, lands of the Yorta Yorta upon where we collectively meet today, and pay our respects to their Elder's past, present and emerging.





AGENDA

12.00	1. WELCOME		Lunch
12.30	2. PREVIOUS MINUTES	EO	The minutes of the Officer meeting held online on 18 October 2021 were distributed via email and are also available on the website (member's section).
12.35	3. PREVIOUS MEETING ACTIONS	EO	See Appendix 1 Note from Moira re MAV and streetlight maintenance contract – see item 4.
12.37	4. PROJECTS & FUNDING	EO	See Appendix 2
<p>ACTION: James to review and update members re MAV proposed streetlight maintenance contract.</p>			
12:50	5. MEET THE OFFICER!	CS	<p>Melani Samara Climate Change Officer Greater Shepparton</p> <p>Melani has just started at GSCC as the Climate Change Officer. She has lived in Australia for five years and has worked professionally in Mildura prior to this role. She will be initially working on GSCCs Climate Emergency Action Plan consultation.</p>
1:10	6. NATIONAL CLIMATE PROGRAMMES	All	<p>Suggestion from Benalla Rural City to discuss this item.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has joined a broader-scale climate advocacy program? • What's the value in joining? • What have you got out of it? <p>Most councils engage with Cities Power Partnership. The media profile and advocacy network is good. And it is free. Do have to report on pledges, but not castigated if you don't meet them.</p> <p>Some members have joined Azility or Trellis for utility GHG reporting, and some reviewing these relationships. Trellis has annual fee of .50c per head of population in order to create a fairer fee for small-rural councils (Strathbogie, Benalla, Towong, Indigo are all members).</p>
1.30	7. GMCA STRATEGIC PLAN	EO	<p>Update</p> <p>Results of the post-workshop survey are here</p> <p>EO is currently compiling the next draft for committee review.</p> <p>Facilitator has forwarded her draft report.</p>

1:40	8. NATURALLY COOLER TOWNS WRAP UP	EO	Update and next steps. Please see the final Reports here . Some 38 participants attended the Forum on 25 February.
<p>ACTION: EO to send out individual NCT Council reports to CEOs and GMCA representatives noting recommendations and seeking endorsement for an Arborists Network/annual Forum.</p>			
1:50	9. RESOURCING	ALL	<p>For context, your Zero Emission Vehicle Future Fuel funding survey results are here.</p> <p>Discussion on orgs resourcing (staff and funds) for climate action including difficulty taking on mitigation and adaptation funding projects.</p>
<p>ACTION: EO to explore benchmarking of GMCA staffing in comparison to other councils E&S units – per head of population (as an indicator of council rates income and adaptation/mitigation workload).</p>			
2.00	BREAK	ALL	10 mins
2.45	10. AROUND THE REGIONS	All	<p>Take as read. Please link directly to the February 2022 update of Around the Regions.</p> <p>Councils went around the table and communicated recent project, programme and policy wins.</p>

Close 3pm

APPENDIX 1 - ACTION PROGRESS

Date	 Complete	 in progress	 not commenced	WHO	COMPLETE	
2022						
Oct 2021	Update on Ausnet and the Public Lighting Replacement project Project delayed further due to Nillumbik Shire taking legal action based on the data inconsistencies of their Ausnet streetlights. Ausnet reviewing all data to ensure no other issues with councils arise.			EO	Mar 2022	

APPENDIX 2 - PROJECTS & FUNDING REPORT

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PROGRESS March 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 to finalise Feb '22 Forum for 25 Feb – 38 attended MSC Officer appointed p/t to GMCA PCG with Euroa Arboretum, GBCMA, Campaspe, Shepparton, Strathbogie formed	Document delivery end Feb and each GMCA member and NCT participant to receive. Each council to brief its council.	EO
Victorian Regional Hydrogen Partnership	Work with the Victorian Hydrogen Hub (VH2) to achieve best H2 outcomes for the region.	Met with the VH2 team, and CVGA. Shepparton, Mansfield, Wangaratta and Campaspe will be participating in a Regional H2 Steering Group (7 Councillors, 2 Directors & 1 Officers).	Schedule Steering Group Meeting #1 for March 2022.	EO & VH2
GMCA Strategic Plan	Complete the 2022-2026 GMCA Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan for endorsement at the August 2022 Meeting of the Alliance.	Workshop was undertaken on 17 Feb 2022 and EO is reviewing feedback.	EO working through feedback from workshop to synthesise into the Strategy.	EO Strategic Plan PCG
Sustainable Subdivisions	Shared ESD Planning service for GMCA co-funded	EO presented to GMCA Executive, and discussed with CASBE. The Regional Planning Hub is considering a co-contribution of \$42,323 for a 1 EFT f/t position.	EO has met with the Hub MSC, Strathbogie, Wang have approved in principle.	EO
RMIT Microgrid Project	RMIT Project Team undertaking work to assist 2 to 3 microgrid groups who are advanced enough for them to help apply for funding to do an ARENA feasibility assessment of up to \$1m each.	Initial contact has been made with 3 groups in GMCA region in Yea, Benalla and Murchison.	Current meetings will ascertain if these groups are advanced in their thinking enough to progress with.	EO RMIT
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, strathbogie, towong, wangaratta, wodonga)	Preliminary meetings occurred with Ausnet (GMCA, EAGA and SECCA). Delayed by 2021 storms and council legal actions.	Further meetings planned EO will keep teams updated in 2022	EO

29 April 2022 Alliances Conference	The Conference of the Victorian Alliances will now occur on April 29, 2022. It has been decided to go ahead with a face to face event.	EO will facilitate two sessions: Climate Change and Health, and Regional Transitions. Online Programme is now up. GMCA is facilitating invitations to the private sector ie super funds and banks looking to invest in mitigation and adaptation projects.	100+ people have signed to attend in person so far. Will send a reminder later in March.	EO
Advocacy	Ausnet Community Consultative Committee	Ausnet has requested the GMCA EO join their ACCC. Focus on resilience improvement opportunities, energy sentiment of customers, etc that inform their business and customer strategy, key business decisions and communications.	Next meetings Feb. & Mar.	EO
Advocacy	Climate Change in the Planning System The adoption of a net zero emission target and commitments to adaptation have not yet 'trickled down' to inform decision-making within the built environment and planning system.		Procurement for promotions org to assist advocacy messaging begun	Alliances

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT	GRANT OPPORTUNITY	Status
Zero Emissions Vehicles	Zero Emissions Vehicles Commercial Sector Innovation Fund	The Victorian Government is inviting organisations to submit an EOI application by 18 February for this fund . The fund will consider a range of proposals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct purchase incentives for ZEVs for commercial fleets or collective purchasing arrangements - trials of ZEV technology with specific commercial users/uses (eg. wheelchair-accessible ZEVs or waste collection vehicles) - development and implementation of training to assist the industry's transition to ZEVs - support for vehicle-charging infrastructure within fleet depots - business case development. A number of councils are applying. EVENERGY are seeking consortiums via their application.
Carbon + Biodiversity Pilot	The Pilot uses the ERF Environmental Plantings method which involves the planting or direct seeding of native tree and shrub species on land that has been clear of forest for more than 5 years. The purpose of these plantings is to store carbon.	Closes on the 3 rd March 2022 and focusses on 6 Australian regions, one of which is the Goulburn Broken.

Regional Planning Hub	Planning support for regional and rural councils	<p>The program new, and is managed by Regional Planning Partnerships. This team works with rural and regional councils to grow and realise economic development. GMCA is considering an application to support the Sustainable Subdivisions Pilot.</p> <p>As part of the program, assistance is available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statutory planning • strategic planning • professional development <p>Applications are based upon:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for assistance 2. Statutory and strategic alignment 3. Social, environmental and economic impact.
State and Regional Priority Projects Grants stream of the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for Disaster Risk Reduction.	<p>Limit the impact of future disasters and events that are associated with heatwaves and flooding.</p> <p>DJPR</p>	The closing date for applications is 4pm, 19 April 2022.