

OFFICER'S MEETING MINUTES



Date 13 March 2024

Start 1pm

Finish 3 pm

Location Online

Executive Officer, Carole Hammond

Invited

	Mansfield SC
Bronwyn Chapman	Murrindindi SC [GMCA auspice]
Bronwyn Westbrook	Alpine SC
	Benalla SC
James Marsh	Campaspe SC
Amy Northwood, Louisa Marston	DEECA Hume [Associate]
Sam Niedra, Maureen Rogers	Indigo SC
Elyse Kelly, Brendan Garrett, Narelle Liepa	Mitchell SC
	Moira SC
	North East CMA
Allison McCallum	GB CMA
Marisa O'Halloran, Paul Dainton, Manika	Greater Shepparton
Molly Odgers	Strathbogie SC
Greg Karlson	Towong SC
Zaylee SJT	Rural City of Wangaratta
	City of Wodonga
Lindsey Pettifer	Sustainability Vic (guest)
Louise Perrin	Alpine Resorts Victoria
Beau Clark and Kotika Morgan Bulled	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Apologies (known) Luke Bramley, Daniel Alder,

Acknowledgement of country We wish to acknowledge the traditional, unceded, lands of the Taungurung, Yorta Yorta and Wurrundjeri nations upon where we collectively meet from today, and pay our respects to their Elder’s past & present.

Meeting to be recorded.

AGENDA

1.00	1. WELCOME	EO	
1.05	2. PREVIOUS MINUTES	EO	The previous minutes of 13 September 2023 are attached here .
1.06	3. INTRODUCTIONS	All	Around the screen, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Your name - what you do and where you do it, and - what part of your job you love best
1.15	4. AROUND THE REGIONS	All	All GMCA members fill in a quarterly update as to their environment, sustainability and climate activity. The link to ATR is here . If you would like to add to it before I send to CEOs and Councillor groups you have until Friday 15th March .
1.20	5. PRESENTATION Link to recording Link to Dean’s resources	Dean Thomson, EO, NAGA	<p>The NAGA ‘Rethinking Carbon Offsets’ Report is fostering a discussion about alternative offset methods such as ways to create offsets that are localised, and councils setting their own internal carbon price. For some background reading on some of what is happening out there already see:</p> <p>Camden pioneering a new approach to carbon offsetting</p> <p>Carbon offsetting in the neighbourhood</p> <p>Dean will talk to some new thinking that could suit both local government and local business as well as the local environment. Please come ready with your thoughts/experiences. If you would like, send me any info and I will share pre-meeting.</p> <p>Keep in mind there is also a working group / forum planned for May/June this year for those interested (being planned by Dean and the Alliances).</p> <p>Notes from the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality offset prices rising • Preference is local but definitions of this vary • Increasing scrutiny here and internationally • 5 of 17 councils Climate Active in EAGA/NAGA with 2 more starting – majority offsets international • Savannah burning offsets expensive • Most councils have NZ targets by 2030 • About three more buying offsets but not registered under CA • Scope 3 emissions are difficult to reduce • City of Geelong have carbon offset levy on their landfill

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70k tonnes across NAGA and EAGA to be offset but a lot of that is the landfill • Under ACCU scheme methodology under waste diversion • Aldi part of that scheme across metro Melbourne • Not too many savings from under \$100k tonnes CO2 going through brokers • Most NAGA councils buy 5-6k at a time • Potential savings opp to have a shared service with someone doing due diligence etc instead of a broker • Opportunity to set up a carbon offset buyers group • Councils as supply/demand ie metro / rural • Even with high quality offsets there are still risks • Uncertified but verified ie Greenfleet model. Have it audited. Could unlock new projects with landholders. Less admin. Less rigour. Double counting? Can't claim CN under CA. How to define and share those benefits and record benefits. • Climate contributions, not trying to achieve formal CN, just trying to make a contribution locally. Not used for accounting purposes. • Carbon insetting trying to reduce emissions in your supply chain. Reduce liability. Can be nature based or technology. Additionality – would it have happened anyway? <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a formal carbon offset policy 2. Improve understanding of forecast emissions 3. Shift to a blend of domestic and international offsets <p>For the Alliances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a sector-wide WG on carbon offsetting 2. Dev a carbon offset buyers WG 3. Consider opportunities to co-invest and partner in existing or new nature-based solutions <p>Retrofit credit scheme, generate retrofit credits, social housing, upgrade thermal efficiency, electrification, Verified Carbon Standard. Similar to the Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund. Stormwater Offsets? Is Climate Active a necessary step to have? Affordable for all? Why can't LG get together and develop a scheme? Measurable, verifiable. Lot of work to get to that point. EVs – charging of the cars, via renewables, Soil carbon capture, already ACCU methodologies, costly to implement, such as direct measurement of carbon, default values with emission factors are considered conservative. Methodology being updated.</p> <p>Suggestion to have a presentation from relevant councils in the UK.</p>
14.30	4. GMCA REGIONAL PROJECTS & FUNDING	EO	GMCA Targets and Action Plan latest update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed Aquifer Recharge Workshops • Neighbourhood batteries

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AusNet streetlighting MV changeovers – last chance to put it in your budgets before the subsidy subsides • Recharging Goulburn Murray • A Resilient Public Estate • Victorian Climate Resilient Councils initiative • Alliances Conference booked 30 August 2024 • Councillor Forum – initial email gone out • Advocacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transition to EVs 03/2024, ○ Inquiry into Residential Electrification 09/23 ○ LG Multigovernance Partnerships 10/23 ○ Future Gas Strategy 11/23 ○ Infrastructure Design Manual 12/23 ○ First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 02/24
2.35	6. GMCA Training, Workshops and Forums	EO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alliances Conference booked for 30 August 2024 - Upcoming Carbon Offsets working group forum May/June timeframe – stay tuned - Councillor climate working group/forum March - Geospatial for Climate Change Ongoing User Group - Other? <p>Don't forget GMCAs YouTube channel containing past training and presentations on specialised subjects. Any requests for officer capacity building (or other CB)?</p>
2.50	7. OTHER	EO	<p>When will LG report mandatory Heads of Agreement Climate Resilient Homes ebook – GMCA</p> <p>ACTION: EO to report back on VicGov progress to mandatory government emissions reporting, and how this impacts local government.</p> <p>ACTION: EO to send out Recharging Goulburn Murray draft Heads of Agreement.</p> <p>ACTION: Wangaratta to share CVGA Climate Resilient Homes eBook.</p>

Close 3.03pm

Next meeting: 19th June 2024