

BRIEFING REPORT

ALLIANCE COMMITTEE

To:	GMCA Alliance Committee	Tracking No.:
Date:	7 February 2022	
CC:		
From:	Executive Officer	
Subject:	Delivery Model for GMCA ESD & Sustainable Land Use	
Critical Date:	February 2022	
Critical Reason:	To enable financial commitments from councils to appoint an officer in the 21/22 FY	

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the issues involved delivering ESD in the built and planned environment in the GMCA region.

Noted / Please Discuss

2. Agree that a shared independent, ongoing ESD/planning resource led by the GMCA, in partnership with CASBE when required, will be a valuable asset to the GMCA.

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

3. Agree that the GMCA part-fund (from membership funds) a part-time resource March-June 2022, and the nine council planning units signed to Sustainable Subdivisions, be approached to share costs for the remaining amount as an initial trial to be reviewed in June 2022.

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

...../...../.....

Feedback

Background

1. The GMCA consists of 13 local governments, 9 of which have signed up to CASBEs Sustainable Subdivisions Framework (SSF) initiative. SSF is not a GMCA initiative, however the GMCA has maintained strong links with CASBE on this and other land use planning projects. SSF was viewed as the top priority by members during a recent survey and is intended to be integrated into the 2022-26 GMCA Strategic Plan for this reason.
2. In Dec 2021 CASBE informed GMCA that none of our participating councils had met any data submission obligations for the Sustainable Subdivisions pilot. This was chiefly due to regional pandemic related shifts in councils' workloads and capacity. In response, the deadline of the SSF pilot was moved out a further six months and an Interim Report released in Nov 2021 (see Attachment A).
3. The Sustainable Subdivisions Framework has been created to improve residential liveability, and to produce balanced outcomes for both people and the environment, right from the beginning of the subdivision process. It includes Site Layout and Liveability, Streets and the Public Realm, Energy, Ecology, Integrated Water Mgt, Urban Heat, and Circular Economy.
4. In all there are 31 councils participating in the trial. There has been investment from the CASBE membership in developing the SSF and support materials, as well as an officer who works through CASBE. The project was initially funded by the Victorian Collaborative Council Sustainability Fund Partnership Program, and had the Victorian Planning Authority as a partner early on in its development.

Issues

5. Key issues identified in the six month interim report include:
 - a. A paucity of human resources available to planning units to resource the SSF project, particularly those in small regional and rural areas
 - b. Fragmented SSF application requirements (now addressed)
 - c. Relevant developers not being engaged in the trial
 - d. Modification required for the SSF assets (now completed)
 - e. Variable ESD expertise within councils
 - f. A need to proactively run developer forums and engage in partnerships with the development sector
6. Over the last 12-18 months, residents statewide have been making an exodus from city areas whilst the opportunity to work remotely and remove themselves from built up areas during the pandemic, is available to them. Therefore land use planning in local government will continue to be at maximum capacity for the foreseeable future.

7. Whilst each council experiences human resourcing issues, SSF will continue to be placed at the bottom of the 'to do' list. This is because councils as planning authority's must meet legislated statutory obligations within specific time limits, whilst the SSF is a voluntary initiative.
8. Additionally, if there is a lack of ESD expertise within council/planning the capacity issue a council connects to piloting/implementing the SSF will be exacerbated.
9. This is not an isolated human resourcing issue, as it appears to be the case at all participating GMCA councils (and further afield).

Consultation

Cross Alliance

10. Between participating councils

External

11. CASBE

Benefits/Sensitivities

12. The addition of a dedicated ESD/planning resource, shared across GMCA councils.
13. Implementation of the SSF in the GMCA region
14. Demonstrating leadership to the Victorian cohort of CASBE councils, particularly in the 'shared resourcing' space where leadership and learnings are vital.
15. Proactive approaches to the developer sector is currently crucial aspect of the local government role in order to create high levels of sustainable, climate secure communities. A dedicated resource building relationships and sharing knowledge with this group of stakeholders is a sound investment in this respect.

Communications, media and engagement implications

16. This proposal will not have any communications or media implications.

Attachments

Attachment	TRIM No	Title
Attachment 1		Funding Scenarios – Shared GMCA ESD Planning Officer
Attachment 2		SSF Key Findings & Recommendations of 6-month Interim Report – November 2021

ATTACHMENT 1 FUNDING SCENARIOS

GMCA Forecast Income & Expenses 2021/22-2024/25

Total Income	\$ 159,772.88	\$ 167,413.98	\$ 169,847.53	\$ 172,317.56
Gross Profit	\$ 159,772.88	\$ 167,413.98	\$ 169,847.53	\$ 172,317.56
Plus Other Income	\$ 72,270.88	56,324	56,353	56,742
Expenses				
Salaries & Oncost Executive Officer EFT 1.0	\$ 122,200.00	\$ 130,715.00	\$ 132,675.73	\$ 134,665.86
Telephone & internet	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00
Project Officer EFT 0.4	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,612.50	\$ 7,726.69
Subscriptions	\$ 600.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Memberships	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Staff Training	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Travel costs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Partnership Contributions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
General Materials	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Special Projects	\$ 16,400.00			
Alliance Meeting costs	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
IT Purchases and Upgrades	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Auspice Administration Fee	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 175,720.00	\$ 167,385.00	\$ 169,458.23	\$ 171,562.55
Net Surplus	\$ 56,323.76	\$ 56,352.74	\$ 56,742.04	\$ 57,497.05
* contributions based on population; agency fees tied to average of small shires				
** MSC oncosts @ 17.5%				
Assumptions:				
Increase in income fees and expenditure set @ 1.5% indexation				

Attachment 1 (Cont'd)

GMCA Shared ESD Planning Officer Costings – Scenarios

MSC Weekly (not EBA adj)	1	2	3	4
L6	\$1,494.83	\$1,557.61	\$1,623.23	
L6 Annual .6 EFT	\$8,968.98	\$48,597.43	\$50,644.78	
17% Oncost	\$1,524.73	\$8,261.56	\$8,609.61	
L7	\$1,671.17	\$1,734.64	\$1,800.04	\$1,865.65
L7 Annual .6 EFT + oncost	\$10,027.02	\$54,120.77	\$56,161.25	\$58,208.28
17% Oncost	\$1,704.59	\$9,200.53	\$9,547.41	\$9,895.41
	L6			
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
GMCA	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,612.50	\$7,726.69
Alpine	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
GSCC	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Indigo	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Mitchell	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Murrindindi	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Strathbogie	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Towong	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Wangaratta	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
Wondonga	\$610.41	\$5,484.33	\$5,737.99	\$5,725.30
	\$10,493.71	\$56,859.00	\$59,254.39	\$59,254.39
	L7			
	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
GMCA	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,612.50	\$7,726.69
Alpine	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
GSCC	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Indigo	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Mitchell	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Murrindindi	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Strathbogie	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Towong	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Wangaratta	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
Wondonga	\$747.96	\$6,202.37	\$6,455.13	\$6,708.56
	\$11,731.61	\$63,321.30	\$65,708.66	\$68,103.69