**GMCA Quarterly General Meeting – Q3 Thursday 24th August**

# **Sustainable Subdivisions Update Report**

# Update on SSF Trial

* **Phase 1 Trial (24 month) report** has been finalised; summary report to be prepared and issued on CASBE website.
* The SSF ‘**Next Steps Project**’ has now kicked off. Consultants Mesh Planning and LID have been appointed to undertake a planning & technical review of SSF and propose an implementation pathway for planning scheme inclusion. Project completion is scheduled for November 2023. The work should pave the way for an improved SSF and clear next steps for policy implementation. CASBE are the project coordinators and the GMCA Shared Service Advisor, Simon Blackwell, has already been involved in a number of consultation workshops on the project.
* One preliminary outcome from the Next Steps project is likely to be a **draft revised SSF tool** with streamlined process and more appropriate metrics. The intention is that Simon will trial the improved SSF assessment tool on several GMCA applications over the coming months, with feedback going into the refinement and final recommendations on the tool.

# Recent GMCA SSF activities & achievements

* **Victorian Greenhouse Alliances Conference** - Simon presented on the key learnings from implementing the SSF trial at the VGA Conference this month, as part of the CASBE session. The conference was a fantastic opportunity to hear what other councils are doing in the climate space and to catch up in person with a number of GMCA council staff and elected members.
* **ESD Priorities Workshops & working groups**: Continure to design and implement a workshop process to identify key ESD priorities specific to each council. Strathbogie are well into this process (workshop 5); with Indigo and Mitchell just getting started (workshop 1).
* **Internal council training –** ‘**SSF Refresher Sessions**’, two online sessions were held and well attended across the councils. A recording of the session has been made available for on-demand viewing by council staff.
* **CASBE Phase 1 Trial reporting**: input into and review of the final SSF Phase 1 Trial report.
* **Ongoing SSF assessments** – assessments are continuing across most councils, with improved develop engagement occurring on some applications.

## Matrix of Councils involvement in key tasks

The below table illustrates the status of each council in engaging in key tasks mentioned above.

**Q3 – to August 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task**  **Council** | **Training #1**  **SSF Refresher** | **ESD Priorities Workshops** | **Bi-monthly + check-in call** | **SSF applications received** | **SSF applications assessed** |
| **ALPINE** | Attended (4 px) | Deferred | Attended (3/4) | **2** | **2** |
| **INDIGO** | Attended (4 px) | Underway (Workshp 1) | Attended (4/4) | **3** | **2** |
| **MITCHELL** | Attended (8 px) | Underway (Workshp 1) | Attended (3/3) | **7** | **4** |
| **MURRINDINDI** | Attended (2 px) | Discussed | Attended (1/3) | **4** | **3** |
| **SHEPPARTON** | Attended (6 px) | Deferred | Attended (3/3) | **0** | **0** |
| **STRATHBOGIE** | Attended (5 px) | Underway (Workshp 5) | Attended (2/3) | **2** | **1** |
| **TOWONG** | No RSVP | Deferred | Accepted (0/3) | **0** | **0** |
| **WANGARATTA** | Attended (6 px) | Deferred | Attended (3/4) | **3** | **3** |

# On the horizon – next quarter

A number of actions are currently in the planning stages and planned to be delivered over the next quarter.

* **Ongoing SSF assessments & sustainable design advice**
* **Internal Council training – ‘SSF Process Optimisation’.** Currently developing our next training session, this time specifically for council planners, focusing on incorporating the SSF efficientlyinto planning assessments.
* **Industry partnerships and collaboration**
  + **Integrated Water Management** – consultation with IWM regional leads regarding synergies between SSF and IWM frameworks and forums.
  + **Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) & Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines (SIGs)** – liaison with IDM/SIG representatives to understand potential revisions and advocate for elevated sustainability targets to support SSF criteria.
* **ESD Priorities identification workshops** – progress workshops with current participating council and invite additional councils to partake in process.
* **SSF Next Steps project -** input into project to ensure tool refinements and proposed implementation reflects GMCA councils’ requirements.
* **Ongoing refinement of SSF** tools, resources and process.
* **Presentations** – Simon will be presenting to the Indigo ShireEnvironment Advisory Committee, this week. Simon will also be co-presenting at a Planning Institute of Australia Training Session on Healthy Communities.