

REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019 TO FEBRUARY 2020	
ALPINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alpine Shire community and business have been substantially impacted by the fire event, with about one third of the area burnt and severe impact on visitation. Council is coordinating recovery and financial assistance</li> <li>A community group has formed, Sustainable Upper Ovens, doing great work with community development of renewable energy Council is pursuing funds for trails including the Great Valley Trail, Bright to Harrietville</li> </ul>
BENALLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Government Energy Savers Stream 3 – 60kW solar system currently being installed on library, will include display in library space for community engagement / education</li> <li>Online with Trellis, had training, need to work on getting all data (previous invoices) to Trellis</li> <li>Free community screening of 2040 was very well attended, around 160 people</li> <li>Attended Parliamentary Inquiry in Wangaratta on 13 Feb</li> <li>Attended Climate Emergency Summit in Melbourne 14/15 Feb</li> <li>Clean Up for Turtles event on Clean Up Australia Day with Turtles Australia</li> <li>Benalla Sustainable Future Group hosting a climate science event on 19 March @ BPACC. In lead up to lodging a petition with Council to make climate emergency declaration.</li> <li>Roadside Weeds and Pest program almost complete.</li> <li>Communities Combating Weeds and Pests During Drought project, with Moira RC and Landcare Networks. In Benalla ACUP training has been very well received. Interest in funding for weed control on private property was slow to begin but is now almost fully expended. Rabbit control to commence. Wild dog exclusion fencing complete. Benalla has applied for further funds- round 2.</li> <li>Construction of two solar farms about to commence.</li> </ul>
CAMPASPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Echuca Stadium Solar Project has gone to tender. The preferred supplier will install 60kW solar with 30kW of batteries. Works to start shortly.</li> <li>The success of the voluntary food and garden organics program continues - 65% of eligible residents (7,175 households) now have a green bin and diverted 1700 tonnes of waste from going to landfill. The average contamination rate continues at low 0.24%.</li> <li>Roadside Weeds and Pests Program continues with funding available until 30 June 2020. Currently negotiating with Woka Walla crew to undertake some rabbit control works at two sites roadsides (both sandhills).</li> <li>Campaspe's Planning Team are part of a project with other local governments within the Loddon Campaspe region, Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) and Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA) to determine the feasibility and need for Environmentally Sustainable Design in rural planning schemes.</li> <li>Presented to Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities at Mooroopna on 12 February.</li> <li>Campaspe Shire Council is hosting a Business Clean Up Day site. 12 community groups and 5 schools will also host sites for Clean Up Australia Day.</li> </ul>
INDIGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
MANSFIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roadside weed control works continuing</li> <li>Waste management plan consultation to commence in March</li> <li>New secondary college student representatives on Environment Advisory Committee</li> </ul>

MITCHELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaugural Mitchell Shire Environment Policy being drafted and presented to the Executive Leadership Team on the 25 Feb and Council in March.</li> <li>• Outdoor screening on the 2040 film planned for 3 April in Goulburn Park, Seymour. supported by DELWP</li> <li>• Refining reporting on energy and water usage through Azility.</li> <li>• Attended Seymour Alternative Farming Expo (environment and waste teams stall) - 14-16 Feb.</li> <li>• Providing input on ESD principles for project briefs for new Council buildings (mainly in growth areas)</li> <li>• Participated in a children's waste educational session in Jan. "<i>attack of the plastic time monsters</i>" 100 attendees.</li> <li>• Roadside and reserve weed control works ongoing</li> <li>• Added 723 new entries into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas from existing flora and fauna surveys (via work placement student!)</li> <li>• Providing input into Council's projects on social and affordable housing – advocating for ESD.</li> <li>• Putting together project brief for ESD assessment and works on Greater Beveridge Community Centre.</li> <li>• Mondo presented to the Executive Leadership team on the 4 Feb on the distributed energy project. Now we are following up with suggested sites (Council and business) to see if this is a feasible option for Mitchell.</li> <li>• Presented to Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities at Mooroopna on 12 February.</li> <li>• Looking forward to a tour of the Cherry Tree Wind Farm in March</li> </ul>
MOIRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim contract decision – SPC (AGL) for small sites</li> <li>• Existing emissions reduction projects (ongoing)</li> <li>• Budget bids for next financial year (solar systems)</li> <li>• Mid-season irrigation use (meter readings)</li> <li>• Recreation Reserve &amp; Water use review (external funding)</li> <li>• IWM funding application (DELWP) - Gemmell St basin upgrade</li> <li>• Stormwater Management Plan (2002) review – Foresight Advisory</li> </ul>
MURRINDINDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning is underway for the Dindi Sustainable Living Expo being held in Yea in April 2020.</li> <li>• Local Government Energy Savers Project – Stream 3 Building Energy Upgrades (Stage 1) with LED lighting upgrades and solar PV installations</li> </ul>
SHEPPARTON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EV's operational since mid-November. Staff use has been slow due to concerns around being electrified, range anxiety (justified with a Leaf), lack of confidence unplugging and plugging in. Have done some training and use is expanding slow. Lesson: if ready to get EV's, make sure have spare cable, one of ours was stolen and it took car out of service for over a week.</li> <li>• Charging the Regions project providing valuable learnings and potential costings, as we are fielding requests for public charging infrastructure for both Shepparton and our smaller towns. We will have 3 public chargers at the Shepparton Art Museum which is due to open early next year.</li> <li>• Hosted Parl team for evening community information session 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – 10 people attended.</li> <li>• Parl Inquiry at Shepparton presentation 12<sup>th</sup> Feb</li> <li>• Attended national climate emergency summit 14 and 15 Feb – will talk at meeting.</li> <li>• Working on having people give short presentations on how CC is affecting them to Councillors during Feb and March</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to Council in April recommending to declare emergency with 0 carbon emissions by 2030 to replace our Energy Reduction Plan</li> <li>• Presented with Bronwyn to Hume Region CEO meeting about auspicings GBGA</li> <li>• Tender has been awarded for solar systems at Aquamoves and Shepparton Saleyards</li> <li>• Delay in PPA tender requiring investigation into interim electricity contract</li> <li>• Roadside Management Strategy is at final draft stage and about to start public consultation process</li> <li>• Currently identifying vegetation offset sites for Council</li> <li>• One Tree Per Child planning underway for mid-May planting commencement</li> <li>• Sustainability grants round now closed – 3 applications received</li> </ul>
STRATHBOGIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carole Hammond has resigned to take up the position of Assistant Director in the Asset Strategies section of the Education Department of the ACT Government</li> <li>• The new CEO of Strathbogies is Julie Salomon. A restructure is planned and it will be a while until Carole's position is filled.</li> </ul>
TOWONG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste review report ready for council</li> <li>• Food &amp; Organics option for Corryong and Tallangatta ready for council</li> <li>• Roadside weed and pest program continuing through to April</li> <li>• Replacement of building light globes with LED</li> <li>• Solar panel / battery installation on council buildings</li> <li>• Refrigerant treatment to aircon units on council buildings</li> <li>• Replacement of twin element hot water units with solar or instant gas units on council buildings</li> </ul>
WANGARATTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sixteen environmental events have been set for 2020, and an environmental calendar of events and media release launched.</li> <li>• Outdoor Screening of 2040 (funded by DEWLP) hosted by our Youth Council occurring on 13 March at Merriwa Park.</li> <li>• Sustainability &amp; NRM Coordinator presented at the Parliamentary Hearing regarding 'Tackling Climate Change' held in Wangaratta.</li> <li>• Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2020-2025 draft underway.</li> <li>• Investigating merits of the Mondo Distributed Energy Resources trial. Presentation by Mondo to Director of Dev Services and Sustainability &amp; Eco Dev officers held on 4<sup>th</sup> of Feb.</li> <li>• Roadside Weed Program continuing.</li> <li>• Council received grant funding to host a youth engagement event (from Agriculture Victoria) targeting 17-24 year olds through a free invasive species kayaking event down the Ovens River.</li> </ul>
WODONGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single use plastics policy open for public comment for until 10th January. The outcomes of the consultation report are due to exec mid-March. Working with Albury City &amp; Plastic Oceans to investigate corporate package to assist to reduce single use lastics.</li> <li>• Writing a report to review the sustainability strategy and Climate change adaptation action plan which is due to exec late March. Both documents are due for renewal in the next 12 months.</li> <li>• Contributed on the panel at the Parliamentary Inquiry at Wangaratta 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisting Gateway Health to incorporate the impacts of climate change into their operations and the RESPOND project, also met with Bronwyn Chapman to investigate opportunities to share across organisations</li> <li>• Preparing the final report and financials for the CCIG project with RAW Energy Inc.</li> </ul>
GBCMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Norman (CEO) has resigned and moved to Queensland to take up a CEO position with NRM Queensland. Carl Walters and Eileen Curtis will share the acting CEO position over the next couple of months, whilst a recruitment process is underway.</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement as part of the renewal of the GB Regional Catchment Strategy is underway, with an effort to engage with the community and stakeholders about how to ensure it best meets future challenges and key drivers of change such as climate.</li> <li>• The GB CMA have received reports that the Jamieson River turned brown Thursday last week, and we are currently monitoring the situation and investigating the cause, but suspect it is run-off after rain in fire-affected areas further upstream.</li> <li>• The Goulburn Broken CMA continue to monitor water quality in creeks, rivers and wetlands given the ongoing dry conditions. This means below-average stream flows and an increased likelihood flows in many of the smaller creeks and tributaries of the Goulburn and Broken rivers will be very low or may stop during the next few months.</li> <li>• Spots at a soil carbon and 'what this means for your farm', workshop being held in Strathbogie, with soil scientist Dr Cassandra Shefe, is in high demand. This highlights the interest from landholders in learning how to manage soil carbon on their properties.</li> <li>• Farmers and farm workers can now apply for the GMID Drought Employment Program. This provides opportunity for farmers to receive income and training while delivering projects that protect and improve the environment and provide public good.</li> </ul>
NECMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Findings from study and mapping of climate change impact on agriculture in NE Victoria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentations have been delivered to Indigo environmental advisory committee, &amp; to the National NRM conference in Wodonga</li> <li>- Presentations to two DELWP teams in Wangaratta and Ovens highlighting the predicted climate change as modelled.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Attended the DELWP climate projections workshop in Benalla</li> <li>• Establishing the governance framework for the 3CA dairy project in North East Victoria</li> <li>• Conducted a meeting on water yield in Benalla with MDBA, GM Water, NE Water, GBCMA, La Trobe university, Agriculture Victoria and DELWP. A decision was made to explore the development of an adaptation pathway for the regional water sector with water yield being a key driver in partnership with RMIT.</li> <li>• Development of a adaptation pathway with the water sector and agencies to understand the implications of a potential and modelled water yield reduction for the region. This will be a 3-session process that has engaged RMIT and Paul Ryan to develop a scope for the production of a regional adaptation plan.</li> <li>• Working with DELWP on a 3CA project supporting the development of an adaptation plan for the regional dairy industry. A project plan has been developed and the consultancy to undertake the work nearly complete. This project has been done in conjunction with Alpine Valleys Dairy inc.</li> </ul>
DELWP	Development of the Regional Adaptation Strategy has been delayed due to officers being needed for emergency response duties. DELWP is conducting a survey with local government to get input about key topics for information sessions in adaptation.
SV	Sarah Barker webinar recording is now up on Youtube - <a href="https://youtu.be/rrXAY_Pmf7g">https://youtu.be/rrXAY_Pmf7g</a>