

ANNUAL REPORT



Who we are

The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA), established in 2007, promotes and supports action on climate change in the Hume Region of Victoria. Members are the region’s two Catchment Management Authorities, the Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning (Hume) and eleven municipalities.

GBGA operates through member organisation financial and in-kind contributions which support attainment of our vision and mission.

GBGA support its members through project management, advocacy, knowledge sharing to build capacity and securing funding.

Our vision

Our communities actively responding to climate change to help build a positive future.

Our mission

We exist to raise the awareness and capacity of the region to mitigate and adapt to climate change through:

- **Learning** to increase skills
- **Communication** to inspire action
- **Partnerships** to plan and act
- **Governance** to build organisational sustainability



Council Members:

- Benalla Rural City Council
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Indigo Shire Council
- Mansfield Shire Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council
- Rural City of Wangaratta Council
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- Wodonga Shire Council

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
North East Catchment management Authority
Department of Environment, Land Water & Planning



2017 - 2018 highlights

- **Renewal of the GBGA with a four year auspice arrangements and MOU, from mid 2017—mid 2021**
- **GBGA enriched by membership of North East Catchment Management Authority, Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP Hume) and the Councils of Wangaratta, Wodonga and Indigo.**
- **“Building the case for electric vehicles in regional council fleets” demonstrated the potential of electric vehicles for Council use**
- **GBGA public forum for electric vehicles shows strong public interest in this developing area**
- **GBGA works with DELWP (Hume) to initiate a DELWP Renewable Energy Forum for councils in the region**





2017-18 - GBGA Commences New Four Year Partnership

This year saw a renewal of the alliance partnership with a stronger alliance of 14 members, expanded from the original nine members. With the inclusion of three further councils, the Department of Land, Water, Planning and Environment and the North East Catchment Management Authority, the GBGA spans most of the Hume region. This was formalised through the signing of a four year memorandum of understanding between all members from mid 2017 to mid 2021. The regional profile of the GBGA was also enhanced by signing the Goulburn Broken Catchment Partnership Agreement.

The new auspice with Greater Shepparton City Council will enable ongoing operation of GBGA with the support of Council including hosting employment of GBGA staff and finance management services.

The Alliance bid farewell to Executive Officer Tom Brown, who led the GBGA for 3 years, achieving key projects and the governance renewal. Fortunately Tom's expertise is still linked with the alliance in his work as regional officer for Sustainability Victoria. Tom's work leaves the alliance in a solid position. Bronwyn Chapman joined the alliance in November 2017 as Executive Officer. Bronwyn comes to the alliance with extensive experience developing sustainability policy and programs in local government.

GBGA networking and advocacy activities

- Delivered ten GBGA presentations to regional partner and members organisations
- Contributed in planning two regional industry workshops
- Attended four Victorian Alliance of Alliances meetings
- GBGA quarterly meetings continued to be productive with all members represented
- Joined with Victorian alliances in advocacy
- Introduced quarterly newsletters for members and the public
- Submitted to State Government Parliamentary Inquiry on Electric Vehicles, Infrastructure Victoria's advice paper to the State Government on Automated and Zero Emission Vehicles

The Emergence of Renewable Energy Opportunities in the Region

2017-18 saw unprecedented interest from both community and commercial sectors in the development of renewable energy in the region. Many Councils received planning applications for large scale solar farms, which posed some unique land planning and community issues. The GBGA worked with the DELWP (Hume) to initiate a regional forum to explore these issues and learn from other experiences in the state. The membership of DELWP in the GBGA assisted this communication and further contribution to planning this DELWP forum, held in June 2018.

With leadership from community groups in Yachandandah and Wodonga, many communities in the east of the Hume region are exploring community energy opportunities. The GBGA assisted in planning forums to improve the outcomes of this movement.



Building the Case for Electric Vehicles on Council Fleets

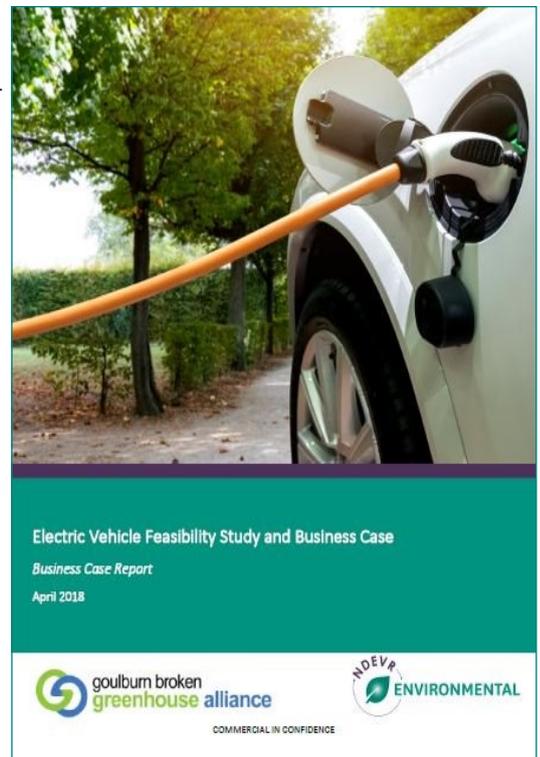
This project produced a feasibility study on electric vehicles (EVs), for the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance. This study showed that EVs are feasible in regional council passenger fleets. A fit-for-purpose electric vehicle can exceed the average required kilometre range of council trips. From 2019 onwards, more EVs will become available with a longer driving range and lower purchase prices.

The project used fleet travel data of the eleven partner councils in the Goulburn Broken and North East regions of Victoria to examine the fit for purpose use of electric vehicles. The results showed that in the near future EVs can:

- Be suitable for shorter trip operations like maternal health, building inspections and local laws
- Be comparable in life cycle cost to passenger vehicles with internal combustion engines, due to comparable purchase price and lower running and maintenance costs
- Contribute significantly to reduce Council carbon emissions as transport produces about a quarter of emissions for many Councils

The project also produced a calculation tool to assess the lifetime costs and emissions of hybrids and EVs, to assist with a business case for Council fleet managers considering fleet options.

An open community session about the project was well supported and showed the developing interest of the public in EV technology.



Working to Build the Resilience of the Agricultural Economy

The outcomes of GBGA Climate Smart Agriculture project are publicly available on the website in a storybook and detailed maps showing the impacts of climate change to 2030 and 2050. In 2017-18, the alliance actively promoted this information with presentations at regional and state forums for landcare, councils and catchment management authorities. The GBGA developed a stage two project to extend the modelling across the Hume and analyse the economic outcomes of different future scenarios. This work will assist planning for agricultural opportunities that respond to a changing climate. Unfortunately GBGA was not successful in 2017-18 with applications to state and federal funds. Supported by all members, this project is a key GBGA objective, and the alliance will continue to seek resources and partnerships to realise this project.

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Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance - annual business report

FY 2017 - 2018

Looking forward to 2018-19

2017-18 was an exciting year for GBGA, with the commencement of the auspice of the Greater Shepparton City Council, and four new full members. The expanded Alliance will set a new strategic direction for the four years to 2020-21.

During 2018-19, GBGA will:

- Develop the GBGA Strategic Plan to guide alliance work from 2018-19
- Implement outputs from "Building the Case for Electric Vehicles in Regional Council Fleets" project, with a fleet assessment and management tool
- Work with other organisations to investigate the best conditions for purchasing of electric vehicles, including collaborative procurement
- Conduct quarterly Implementation Forum meetings and Committee meetings
- Continue to develop key projects for the next 2 years of GBGA operations
- Build the capacity of alliance members to respond to developments in renewable energy
- Continue to develop the GBGA website to share the work of the GBGA and its members to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts
- Review opportunities for the Climate Smart Agricultural Development tool
- Identify further partnership action with other Councils and Alliances

Contact Us

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Explore

Use the GBGA website to explore the many projects and resources of the alliance.

GOULBURN BROKEN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCE MEMBERS

Our communities actively responding to climate change to help build a positive future

