

## From the GBGA Chair

The importance of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance is to bring together Councils in the Goulburn Broken and North East regions, GBCMA, NECMA and DELWP (Hume), to discuss and act on the regional, state and national challenges to Climate Change.

Individuals councils would struggle to develop and implement the wide range of objectives, actions and plans to meet such outcomes.

Strong collaboration has enabled us to achieve savings in the delivery of mitigation, and adaptive climate change projects.

The quarterly reports from council officers highlighting their extensive achievements add to the shared outcomes of the GBGA.

I feel honoured to chair such a productive and important membership.

Cr Marg Attley OAM

Chairperson, GBGA Alliance

## Who we are

The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA), established in 2007, promotes and supports action on climate change in the goulburn broken and north east regions of Victoria.

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

### Our vision

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

### Our mission

We lead by raising the awareness and capacity of the region to mitigate and adapt to climate change through:

- **Learning** to increase skills, knowledge and capacity
- **Communication** in engaging ways to inspire action
- **Partnerships** to plan and act
- **Governance** to maintain a sustainable organisation

## GBGA Members

Greater Shepparton City Council (auspice Council)

Alpine Shire Council (associate)

Benalla Rural City Council

Campaspe Shire Council

Indigo Shire Council

Mansfield Shire Council

Mitchell Shire Council

Moirra Shire Council

Murrindindi Shire Council

Strathbogie Shire Council

Towong Shire Council (associate)

Wangaratta Rural City

City of Wodonga

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

North East Catchment Management Authority

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Hume)



## 2018 - 2019 highlights

- **Developed and adopted the GBGA Strategic Plan 2018-2022.**
- **Investigated the business case to upgrade main road streetlights to energy efficient LED lights.**
- **Co-sponsored and organised the regional conference "Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture" in October 2018.**
- **Worked with member North East Catchment Management Authority who progressed the tools to assist climate adaptation in agriculture.**
- **With other greenhouse alliances, developed a business case for joint purchase of renewable energy for councils.**

## GBGA MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY EMBRACE LOW CARBON FUTURE

In the 2018-19 year the GBGA assisted members to pursue projects that can deliver significant greenhouse reductions, through energy efficiency and renewable energy studies. This mirrors community interest in renewable energy.

### Joint Council Procurement of Renewable Energy

In partnership, the seven greenhouse alliances in Victoria developed a business case to examine the feasibility of a joint Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to enable councils to buy renewable energy. Eight GBGA councils partnered with 29 other councils in this investigation. The business case showed the PPA would provide a competitive price and councils can purchase renewable energy for up to 100% of their current usage. The associated greenhouse gas reduction will contribute significantly to council policies of reduced or zero carbon emissions.



### LED Technology for Main Road Streetlights—Understanding the Business Case

Facilitated by funding from Victorian Collaborative Councils Sustainability Fund Partnership, the GBGA delivered a detailed business case to assist member councils to plan and further reduce their energy use and save costs by upgrading to LED lights. The results showed that savings overall are significant over a 20 year period, but were variable across the councils. This is influenced by existing streetlight operating costs in the two electricity distribution areas of the region. Regional Roads Victoria contributes to the operation and maintenance of main road streetlights, and the GBGA is advocating for a co-contribution to assist councils to change to efficient LED technology. The timing of LED changeovers will be staggered in the future, depending on the contribution policy of Regional Roads Victoria and each council's financial planning.

### Preparing for a Future of Electric Vehicles

The GBGA "Electric Vehicles in Council Fleets" project showed the feasibility of electric vehicles in regional areas. In the next 3-5 years, many electric vehicle models will become available in Australia at competitive prices. Uptake and use in regional areas is held back by poor public charge station facilities. In partnership with the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, the GBGA has established a project to examine a Victoria wide public charge station network. The business case study will commence in July 2019.

### Tracking Our Energy and Greenhouse Emissions

To assist members to compare and learn from each other, a recording tool was developed for the GBGA website, assisted by a Victorian Climate Change grant. Members can record annual results for a range of indicators, including energy, greenhouse emissions, potable water use and waste management. The results allow members to benchmark progress and learn from each other. Members are separately developing their capacity to collect annual data from their diverse operations. Over time, the tool will encourage knowledge sharing and improvement across the Alliance.



## GBGA Strategic Plan 2018-2022

The Alliance developed and adopted the GBGA Strategic Plan in November 2018. The Alliance committed to actions to reduce climate change impacts through reduction of greenhouse emissions and assisting communities to adapt to a changed climate. The Plan sets out collaborative action in each of the strategic areas of Learning, Communication, and Partnerships. The Alliance will work towards its goals using advocacy, training, capacity building and cooperative projects. Working with other Victorian greenhouse alliances will increase the scope and effectiveness of action beyond the GBGA region to develop statewide projects.

The governance and organisation of the Alliance will be strengthened by work in the areas of financial planning, organisational risk management and preparing for the next auspice period of the Alliance, after 2021.

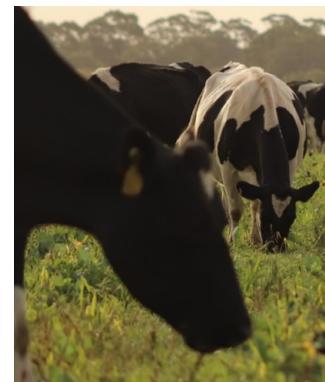
### Working in partnership to develop a sustainable future

In 2018-19, the Alliance continued its contribution to strategy, knowledge development and advocacy.

- In partnership, the Victorian Alliances delivered their 2018 state conference, attended by over 200 representatives from local and state government. The GBGA showcased its work in electric vehicles in council fleets and adaptation in agriculture. Members were able to learn from council projects from across the state.
- The executive officer and members participated in the Hume Regional Energy Roadmap, which has identified opportunities for renewable energy in the region, including large scale solar, pumped hydro energy storage and bioenergy. The Roadmap process also worked to increase the understanding and participation of local communities in their renewable energy future.
- Advocacy to the commonwealth government about regional factors in the future development of energy networks.
- Advocacy to the Victorian government about design of the Solar Homes program to target the benefits to vulnerable groups, and capital funding to upgrade main road streetlights to LED technology.

### Working to Build the Resilience of the Agricultural Economy

The outcomes of GBGA Climate Smart Agriculture Development (CSAD) project in the Goulburn Valley showed the way in a similar project in north east Victoria. Learning from the CSAD project, the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) used updated climate information to develop an improved tool to assist agricultural adaptation. The GBGA assisted development of the Embedding Agriculture Adaptation in Agriculture project. Together, the projects provide relevant information for producers across the GBGA region. Partnerships developed in the project will be part of adaptation work in the region over the coming years.



# ANNUAL REPORT



Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance - annual business report

FY 2018- 2019

## Financial Report 2018-19

The Alliance operates through member financial and in-kind contributions which support attainment of our vision and mission. The operating costs of the Alliance in 2019-20 were \$144,596. The Alliance also holds a surplus of funds for approved project work and contingencies. Over the last 5 years, grants have allowed the GBGA to realise projects worth \$5.1 million, with grants increasing GBGA contributions by a ratio of 2.8. The detailed financial report was approved at the Annual General Meeting of 21 August 2019, and is available from the Alliance.

## Looking forward to 2019-20

In 2019-20 the GBGA will progress the sustainability outcomes of members in several regional and statewide projects.

During 2019-20, GBGA will continue to implement the Strategic Plan, including:

- Guide a statewide project to explore the business case and practical implementation of a statewide electric vehicle charging network "Charging the Regions".
- Participate in the procurement process for a Local Government Power Purchase Agreement to use renewable energy for 45 Victorian councils (including 8 councils from the GBGA).
- Assist members to understand anticipated changes to the Local Government Act and strengthen the inclusion of sustainability in governance areas for councils.
- Plan for the next auspice of the GBGA from 2021.
- Continue the partnership achievements through quarterly meetings of the Alliance.

## Contact Us

Give us a call, get online or email us for more information:

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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