



# BARWON SOUTH WEST CLIMATE ALLIANCE ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT

## PURPOSE

This fact sheet offers an overview of the exciting project to establish a collaborative regional Climate Alliance across the Barwon South West Region. This fact sheet outlines the background, context, participants, purpose, aims and strategies for this establishment phase, and the features and benefits of the proposed Climate Alliance. The aim of this fact sheet is to clarify the nature and need for such an alliance, to gain interest, proffer membership and compel participation.

## CLIMATE CONTEXT

The Victorian Government has identified climate change as one of the biggest threats to the future of the state, with warmer and drier conditions projected to have negative consequences for health, infrastructure, agriculture, water, biodiversity, transport and coastal areas. Victorian legislation shows that a more significant response to climate change is required by local governments and resource management authorities.

- The Victorian State Government has committed to reach Zero Net Emissions by 2050 and a 65% reduction in emissions in Victoria by 2030.
- 5-yearly interim targets will start in 2021 in order to reach the Victorian Government's 2030 emissions reduction target.
- Victoria Climate Change Act 2017 provides a legislative framework to drive action, increase community and economic resilience.
- The Local Government Act 2020 highlights Climate Change as a key principle that must guide council decision making.
- The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared all countries must reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years in order to stop irreversible climate change.
- Australia signed The Paris Agreement, in 2016, together with 170 other countries, as a binding pledge to reduce emissions.

The Independent Expert Panel Advice on 5 yearly Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria 2021-2025 and 2026-2030 advise:



### Acting on climate change

- Victoria has a part to play in global efforts to limit dangerous climate change
- The cost of not acting on climate change far outweighs the cost of action
- The world has already warmed by 1°C, and Victoria is already hotter and drier
- Victoria will benefit from collective global action

## GAPS IN OUR REGION



Legend

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)	South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)	Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)
Gippsland Climate Change Network (GCCN)	Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance (WMSA)
Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA)	No alliance
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)	

Across Victoria there are 8 established regional Climate or Greenhouse Alliances that are formal partnerships of local governments and interested agencies that drive action on climate change. Of the 79 municipalities in Victoria, 70 councils are currently involved in one of these Climate or Greenhouse Alliances.

The 9 outstanding councils, pictured in grey, are those councils in our Barwon South West region.

The Barwon South West Region is the gap on the map of Victoria, the only region with no Climate Alliance and no council climate partnership. The initiative to establish a Climate Alliance in the Barwon South West aims to fill this missing piece and increase coordination across sectors and the region.

## BACKGROUND TO ESTABLISHMENT

Councils in the Barwon South West region and a range of partners including catchment management authorities and water authorities have already worked collaboratively on regional climate change and adaptation issues. At the completion of the successful Climate Resilient Communities project in 2018, a commitment to continue working together led to this establishment project, including funding to appoint the Alliance Establishment Officer. The Climate Alliance establishment project is currently managed and hosted by Warrnambool City Council.

# CLIMATE ALLIANCES IN VICTORIA

In Victoria, Climate Alliances coordinate joint initiatives and attract larger pools of funding for their members. The regional partnership approach provides economies of scale and delivers projects typically beyond the reach of individual organisations. The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances form a broader cohort of collaborative leadership across Victoria that have been recognised internationally as successful models of best practice.

The Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities found that:

- "Victorian Greenhouse Alliances are a leading example of collaboration for climate change action. A key strength of the Greenhouse Alliance model is that it facilitates action to tackle climate change through the establishment of consensus between the individuals who represent member municipalities".
- "The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances have been recognised in Australia and internationally as representing a best-practice model of collaboration."

## AIMS

The aims of establishing a Climate Alliance in the Barwon South West region are to:

- provide a unified voice on climate change for our region
- increase effective climate adaptation across the region and reduce the risks and impacts of climate change
- share knowledge and experience across councils, sectors and the region
- co-ordinate a range of mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects across the region

## PARTNERS

The proposed Barwon South West Climate Alliance would be a formal partnership between 10 local governments and other government agencies including:

- City of Greater Geelong
- Golden Plains Shire
- Surf Coast Shire
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- Corangamite Shire
- Colac Otway Shire
- Warrnambool City Council
- Moyne Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Water Authorities and Catchment Management Authorities
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

## FEATURES & BENEFITS

The features and benefits of becoming a member of the Barwon South West Climate Alliance include:

- a coordinated approach to climate adaptation and mitigation including emissions reduction
- attract large sources of funding
- a stable and reliable platform for knowledge sharing and advocacy
- advantage by leveraging joint effort, expertise, advice, guidance and networks
- increased community and economic resilience
- successful project outcomes that reduce emissions
- regional and shared value not isolated benefits
- cost savings through projects
- clarity of community messaging regarding organisational response to climate
- access to educational resources for staff and community

## ESTABLISHMENT PHASE

The project of establishing a regional Barwon South West Climate Alliance is under way. Gaining the partnership of all councils in the Barwon South West Region is the main objective of this establishment project, which aims to be established in 2021. More detail about membership will follow in early 2021.





BARWON SOUTH-WEST  
CLIMATE ALLIANCE

# The Barwon South-West Climate Alliance Establishment Project



BARWON SOUTH-WEST  
CLIMATE ALLIANCE

10 LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS

2 WATER  
AGENCIES

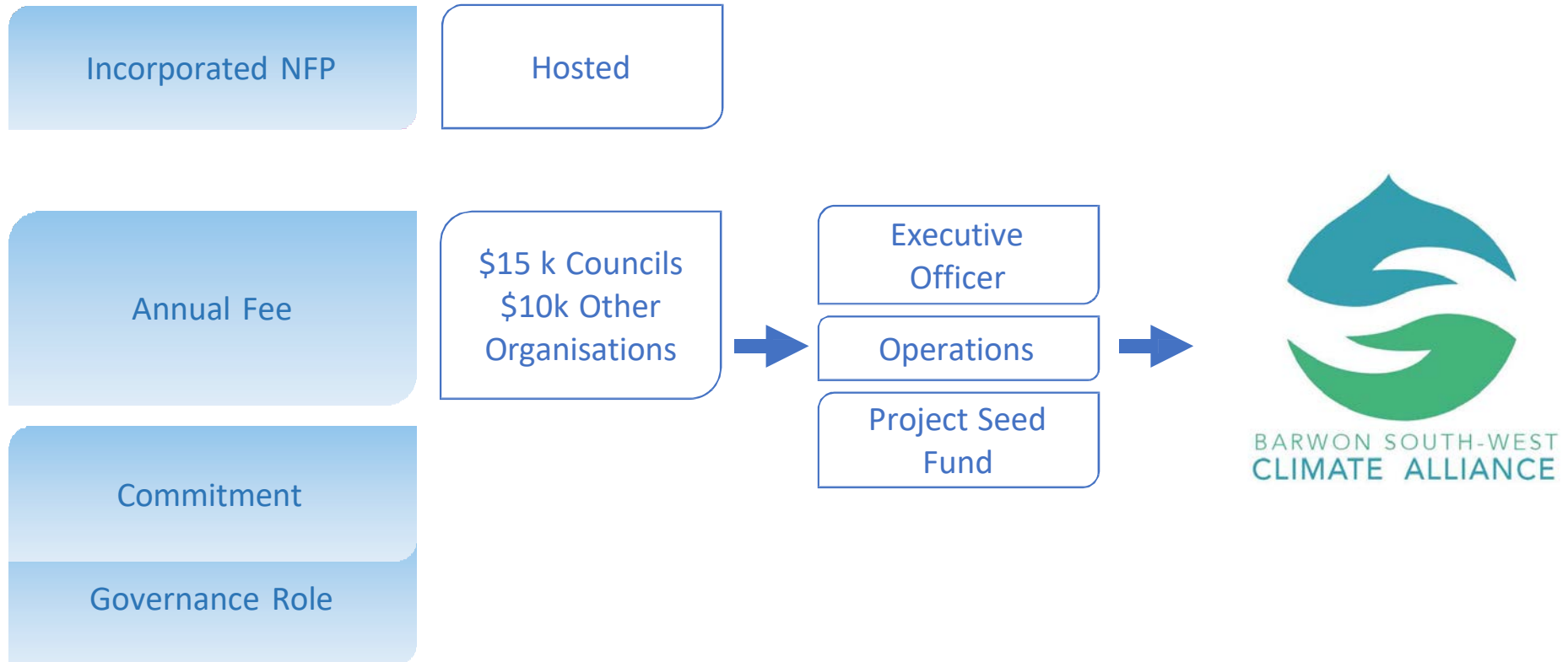
2 CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITIES

# The Barwon South-West Climate Alliance



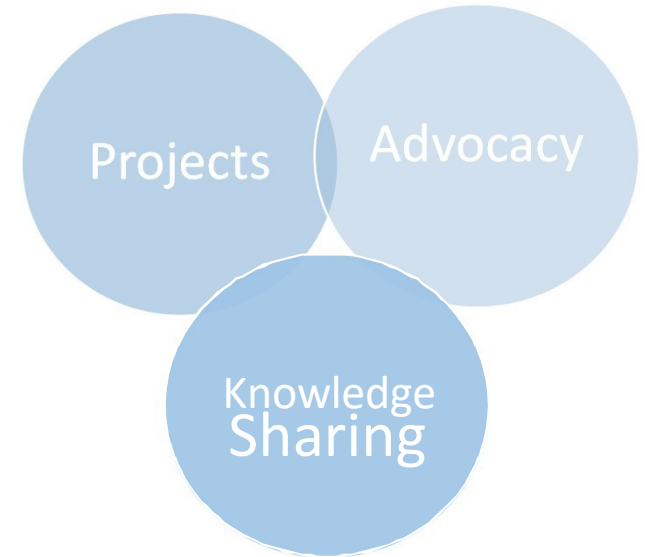
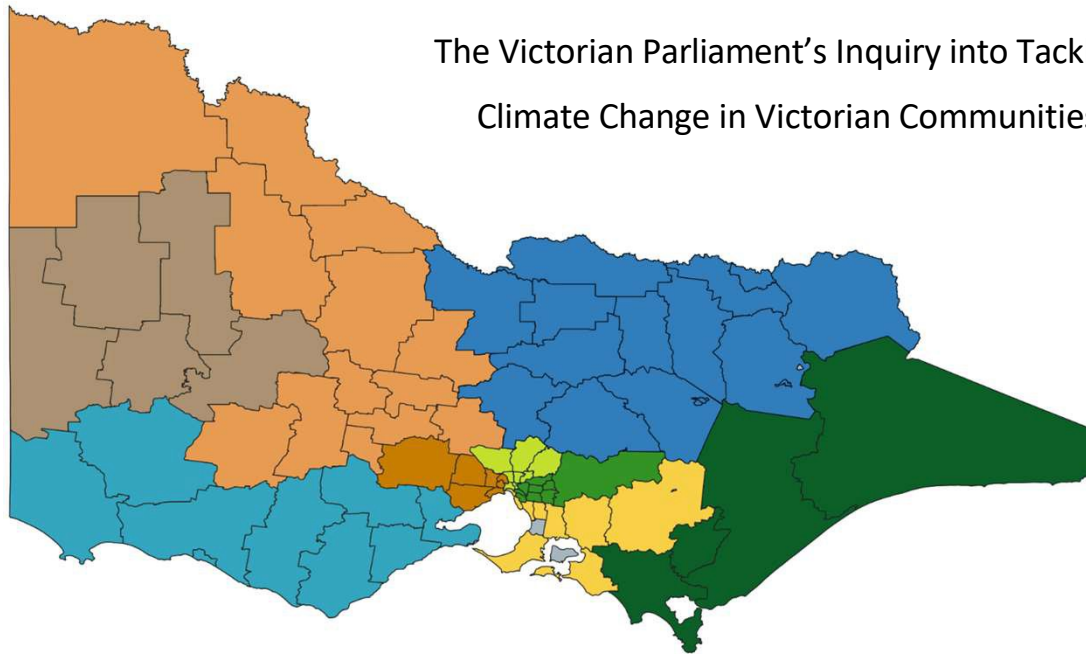


# Project Recommendations



“The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances are a leading example of collaboration for climate change action.”

The Victorian Parliament’s Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities





- Earned \$5 million in grants
- Delivered savings to 45% Councils
- 180,000 tonnes Greenhouse Gas over 20 years
- Saved rate payers & Councils \$57 million dollars



- Alliance led state-wide coordinated project
- Largest ever emissions reduction project in Victorian Government.
- Massive savings energy bills and GHG emissions
- 45% Councils powered by renewable energy



CENTRAL  
VICTORIAN  
**Greenhouse  
Alliance**

13 Councils only  
Executive Officer: Rob Law  
Incorporated NFP Charity DGR  
Membership Fees: average \$15- 25k



8 Councils only  
Executive Officer: Scott McKenry  
Auspiced by Maroondah City Council  
Membership Fees: \$21k

## CVGA Impact Evaluation Report 2017-21

- \$9.3 million
- \$6.6 million community savings
- \$3.5 million grants and funding
- Emissions savings 569,428 tonnes CO2
- **TOTAL FINANCIAL BENEFIT:  
\$13,857,275**

Ratio between total benefit and  
Membership fee: 21

## Unquantifiable Benefits

- Resource & Document Sharing
- Access to expertise
- Driving Action
- Improved skills in staff
- Reduce duplication
- ID new opportunities

## EAGA Impact Evaluation Report 2012-21

- \$10.1 million
- \$576k grants and funding
- \$3.4 million community savings
- Emissions savings 647,907 tonnes CO2

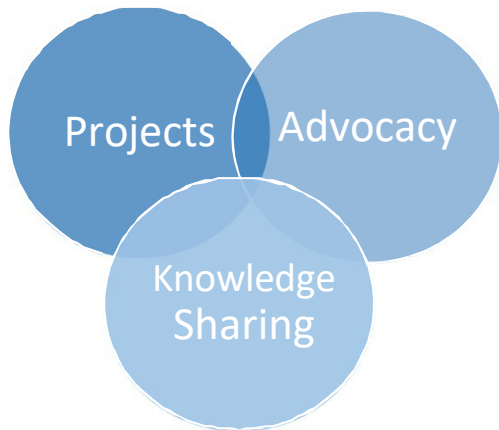
Ratio between total benefit and  
Membership fee: 7.1





# Electricity Distribution Price Review Project ~ 2020-2021

## Victorian Greenhouse Alliances



State wide impact	\$
Council Operating Avoided Costs (2021-26)	\$10,412,306
Council RAB avoided costs (20 years post 2026)	\$19,776,888
<b>Total Council avoided costs (to 2046)</b>	<b>\$30,189,194</b>

Savings by Alliance	Council Savings (2021-26)	Council RAB Savings (20 years post 2026)
BSWGA	\$157,122	\$315,160



# Potential Projects

Health & Climate Forum

Links between public & community health & Climate Change – emergency, hospitals, mental health

Climate Training

Regional roll out – helping decision makers understand what Climate Change means and how to apply it.

Regional Carbon Offset

Invest in regional biodiversity and waterways through carbon offset program.

GHG reporting Training

Consolidating best practice across the region, reduce duplication of effort and increase efficiency and accuracy = creating regional data.

EV Charging Stations

Create a consistent regional network of EV charging stations.

Regional risk mapping

Consolidate sea level rise and flood mapping and DELWP work into a regionally accurate data set for planning and communication.

Communicating Climate

Deliver training in how to communicate climate change effectively with community



# Potential Projects

## EV Fleet

Joint procurement of EV fleet between BSW members.

## Gas transition

Contribute to Victoria's Gas Transition Roadmap on behalf of our region, investigation transition pathways; ie. Aquatic centres

## Sustainable Vehicle Policy

Share resources to develop policy templates for partners use ie: sustainable vehicle policy, etc.

## Sharing Forum

Members share success stories and challenges to find best practice & share knowledge.

## Asset Vulnerability Assessments

Customised training in how to undertake and embed building vulnerability assessments.

## Adaptive Checklists

Use 'How well are we adapting' checklists to assess and plan for regional adaptation improvements



# Potential Projects



DCAV Funding 30 July

EV Charging Stations

Create a quality regional network of EV charging stations on council land.

OUR STRENGTHS: Great relationships, willing to do joint projects. A regional approach makes sense to us.



WEAKNESSES – resource constrained, and no regional platform for funding, and ongoing project delivery.

## *Value & Benefits*

Membership will establish a Climate Alliance for BSW region

Become a part of network of Victorian Greenhouse Alliances

Jump in on high-profile state-wide projects

A platform for larger pools of funding = Greater access to funding

Coordination and staff for region

Quantifiable benefits: emissions & costs savings / economies of scale

Unquantifiable value: efficiency, action, sharing success, expertise

*Thank You*



BARWON SOUTH-WEST  
CLIMATE ALLIANCE

*Questions :*

Does the alliance align with your strategic goals and objectives?

Do you think the Alliance can support your organisation to fulfill on your objectives?

Is the cost of membership worth what you will gain ?

What is most important to you about this?

What are the top 3 things you would want to get out of the Alliance?



# Membership & Budget

Annual Fee  
\$15k Councils  
\$10k Other  
Organisations



1 Year Commitment

Governance Roles on  
Executive & Members  
Forum

Salary	Coordinator / Executive Officer (Band7) FTE, 3-4 days a week + oncosts	\$85,000
Operations	Admin, facilities, meetings, procurement, management, sharing forums, software, IT, legal, accounting.	\$35,000
Projects	Seed funding pool / Liability Fund	\$60,000
	Total	\$180,000



# BSWCA Structure

Chair

Executive Management Committee

Alliance Members Forum

Project Working Groups

Member Elect Advisory Board

Executive  
Officer

Host





# Representation

You nominate a representative:

- Genuine interest
- Collaborative
- Unlikely to proxy
- Experience in sustainability
- Operational understanding
- Capacity to communicate internally

Executive Management Committee

Alliance Members Forum

Project Working Groups

Member Elect Advisory Board



# Becoming a Member

## The Opportunity

Member

\$15k

Governance positions

Hosting Alliance

EOI Process

Founding Member

President  
Chair

Vice  
President

Secretary

Treasurer

No requirement  
No Fees

- Form Committee
- Review Structure
- Shape Rules
- Set Purpose
- Formally Establish



# Next Steps

- At least 5 Founding Members
- Expression of Interest for Hosts
- Sally gather governance documents with HIVE legal
- Founding Members meet informally
  - Discuss rules
  - Purpose
  - Office bearer roles
- BSWCA incorporation meeting (with 21 Notice)
- ABN, Bank account, send out invitations & invoices
- Membership payable – tba
- Members nominate representative
- Executive Board elected
- First meeting – strategic plan and project plan
- Executive Officer

*Thank You*



BARWON SOUTH-WEST  
CLIMATE ALLIANCE