



ANNUAL REPORT 2023


SECCCA
South East Councils
Climate Change Alliance



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ESTABLISHED IN JUNE 2004, THE SOUTH EAST COUNCILS CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE (SECCCA) CONSISTS OF NINE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE SOUTH EAST OF MELBOURNE THAT COLLABORATE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE.

We are in a climate emergency.

It is imperative that global warming is limited to below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

VISION

The south east of Melbourne is a thriving and productive region that has a safe and sustainable climate.

GOAL

- Achieve zero council corporate emissions and lead action to achieve zero community emissions;
- Provide leadership for the region to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience;
- Prioritise investment to reflect the gravity and urgency of the climate emergency.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

SECCCA respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work, and pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future. We acknowledge the care of Country that has taken place over 60,000 plus years, and we commit to learning from those who know how to live in harmony with the natural world.

PURPOSE

SECCCA leads, facilitates and supports comprehensive regional action that accelerates greenhouse gas emissions reduction and builds climate resilience. SECCCA provides the following to its members:

- Collaborative projects that address climate change and maximise value for money through economies of scale;
- A platform to collaborate and learn about how to address climate change;
- Greater influence through regional alignment on climate change policy and action;
- Opportunities to unlock investment in exciting and innovative climate change initiatives;
- Access to leading climate change expertise;
- A gateway to external organisations who seek to engage with the region on climate change action.

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OPENING STATEMENTS



Image supplied by City of Kingston

CHAIR COUNCILLOR ADVISORY GROUP AND MAYOR OF BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL- CR MICHAEL WHELAN

It has been a successful but, in many ways a tough year for SECCCA. I am proud of the team's work to develop an ambitious strategic plan for the next four years and at the same time with progress on our major projects. The Enhancing Community Resilience project is nearing completion, and I am pleased that my own Council Bass Coast has implemented the first part of the Climate Change Asset Vulnerability Assessment Tool for our building assets.

It has been a difficult year because of the ongoing illness of our wonderful CEO Dominique La Fontaine. I pay a huge tribute to Dominique who has taken SECCCA to a level of effectiveness in climate advocacy and project management that we first aspired to when we formed the Councillor Advisory Group four years ago. Her hard work, commitment and insightful leadership has been inspiring. I also pay tribute to Emily Boucher who led the Officer group so effectively with Dominique.

The current team under Daniel Pleiter as acting CEO and Simon Woodland as President have got on with the job. I was delighted to again lead a delegation

recently to Canberra to advocate for greater ambition in emissions reduction as well as seek to partner with government organisations for greater overall impact on emissions reduction and adaptation in our region.

Here in Victoria, we continue to have an excellent rapport with DEECA and work on joint projects. It was encouraging to have the Minister for Climate Change the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio and the Secretary of the Department attend our annual leaders breakfast. I look forward to a fruitful ongoing relationship with them.

Similarly ongoing and more recent partnerships with the Insurance Council of Australia, Minderoo Foundation and Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) will ensure we are pursuing relevant and well targeted projects. Our advocacy theme in Victoria or Canberra is that we are here to partner, to share resources and projects and that together we can achieve much more.

I thank the Councillor Advisory Group that has grown in confidence and provided a new level of ambition for SECCCA. The Councillor Officer partnership through the CAG is a case of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts. I often tell people about the combined effectiveness of nine councils coming together to collaborate, to share and to get on with joint projects. Doing a project once but well for the group is indeed an effective way to make our climate dollar go further.

As well the talent that we gather into the room is compelling. If you combine this with our collaboration and sharing among the Alliances across Victoria we can elevate that effectiveness and we should be kicking goals.

I finish on a sombre note with the recent warning by the NASA scientist who issues the foundational warning on global warming in the 1980s, that is that global heating is speeding up. We cannot rest and we can only change the world a little at a time but together we are more powerful.



Cr Michael Whelan

PRESIDENTS REPORT – SIMON WOODLAND

As I reflect on my first year in the President's chair, it occurs to me that penning this report is a formidable assignment. How can I possibly do justice – in a few paragraphs – to the incredible passion, commitment, and output of our small but powerful organisation? It seems a simple enough task on paper but given everything we've navigated together this past year, it's a challenge to convey just how proud and humbled I am to have served such a dynamic and determined team. Nevertheless, I'll try.

More than anything else, this year has been characterised by the opportunity to reflect on our vision, strategy, and impact; as we wrap up the final year of our four-year planning cycle. Councillors and officers from across the region came together in April to review the achievements under our current Strategic Plan 2021-24. The fact that 21 of the 26 projects we committed to have been delivered, with 4 projects on track for delivery in 2024, speaks volumes about the effectiveness of our alliance.

Our second task on this Strategic Planning Day was to consider what has changed in our social and political context since 2020. It's fair to say that the stakes have been raised on every front. Our scientific community has consistently reported that climate impacts are materialising even earlier than forecasted.

Many commentators have declared the climate wars are over, with the election of a federal government committed to emission reduction targets and strong action. Our state government has legislated its emissions reductions targets, brought forward the deadline for net zero by five years, and now proudly claims Victoria is decarbonising faster than any other state or territory in Australia.

Here in Melbourne's southeast, community expectations and aspirations have galvanised, prompting every one of our elected Councils to acknowledge we are now in a Climate Emergency and must act at speed and at scale to protect the health and prosperity of our communities, economy and natural environment.

In short, our work is gaining much needed and long overdue momentum. The verdict of our Strategic Planning day was clear: SECCCA has a strong track record of facilitating cost-effective collaboration; but even this will not be enough in the years ahead.

We must scale up our vision, commitment, and collaboration if we want to seize the opportunities ahead for our region as the world transitions to a zero-carbon, circular economy. And we will have to partner even more effectively with each other, our communities, and other tiers of government if we are to prepare for the climate impacts heading our way in coming years.

Fortunately, we have solid foundations on which to build that next level of collaboration. Thanks to the tireless work of our SECCCA team, and innovative partnerships with the likes of Minderoo Foundation, the Insurance Council of Australia, and Greater South East Melbourne, our region is now equipped with a detailed road map for the zero-carbon transition and practical tools to enable Councils to manage climate risks to key assets and vulnerable communities. Building on the Advocacy Platform and relationships brokered in 2022, we once again visited Canberra in October to engage directly with the Commonwealth Government.

I was honoured and humbled to join CAG Chair Cr Michael Whelan, Vice Chair Cr Clair Harvey, Acting CEO Dan Pleiter and Exec Support Officer Georgia Langmaid as we met with elected members and their advisors to discuss climate risk, community emission reductions and opportunities for collaboration.

Our alliance is maturing, and there is no better demonstration of that than our annual Leaders' Breakfast in November – bringing together elected representatives and officers from the nine SECCCA councils, state and federal MPs, and a list of special guests as diverse as our region. The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Climate Action celebrated the strength of our region – representing over a million Victorians and contributing \$85 billion in Gross Regional Product; and an expert panel provided a thought-provoking discussion spanning everything from

climate risk, tapping into grass-roots support through sporting clubs, and leveraging opportunities to collaborate with the state.

All in all, the breakfast was an ideal platform to celebrate our draft Strategic Plan 2024-2028, and our shared commitment to scaling up collaboration for climate action across the region.

None of this would be possible without the expertise and efforts of our entire SECCCA team – our treasured staff, tireless council officers and steadfast Councillors. I know that much of this work is done 'off the clock', and I am deeply grateful for every contribution you've made throughout the year. A special thank you from me to our CAG Chair Cr Michael Whelan, to my predecessor Emily Boucher, and to our out-going CEO Dominique La Fontaine. Your work has left a profound legacy for our region. As we set our sights on 2024 and SECCCA's next four years, we stand on the shoulders of giants.



Simon Woodland

ACTING SECCCA CEO REPORT – DANIEL PLEITER

As another year passes by, SECCCA can be proud of its strength and resilience whilst continuing project delivery in the context of a number of compounding challenges.

Most recently we farewelled Dominique LaFontaine, who after almost 7 years, has officially finished up as SECCCA's CEO. Since her time leading SECCCA, we have witnessed the organisation grow from strength to strength. She leaves behind a powerful legacy and will be greatly missed by the entire SECCCA network.

As I continued in the role as Acting CEO this year, I enjoyed the opportunity to work closely with our President, Simon Woodland, and grateful for his invaluable leadership, guidance and support. SECCCA continued to be supported by our dedicated council representatives on the SECCCA Management Committee, along with insightful guidance and advice from our Councillor Advisory Group.

We appointed Georgia Langmaid to the new role of Executive Support Officer who has provided invaluable support to SECCCA. Particularly with this year's strategic planning and operations review.

Once again, SECCCA projects continue to keep the team, council officers and consultants extremely busy. The Enhancing Community Resilience project, funded by the Minderoo Foundation continues to progress to the final phases, due for completion early next year. The data intelligence this project has developed enables councils to identify segments of the community most vulnerable to climate change and why.

This enables councils to develop targeted and evidence-based strategies to build community resilience to climate change.

Two co-design workshops were undertaken with community members to identify priorities for building community climate resilience.

The Bayside workshop explored how *older residents* could be better supported and informed to prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and the Frankston co-design worked with *young* people from two local schools on their experiences and targeted communication needs. The priorities and initiatives identified in these workshops informs the implementation phase of the project.

We farewelled our Project Manager Julie Kirkwood whose incredible hard work and dedication has been a large factor in the success she brought to this particular project and SECCCA's broader resilience program.

In partnership with Greater South East Melbourne a regional Zero Emissions Roadmap for the South East Melbourne was developed, presenting an opportunity to proactively and collaboratively position the region to benefit and prosper in a low emissions world. The Roadmap identifies key roles for GSEM and SECCCA member councils in the task of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 across five key sectors (industrial, commercial, residential, transport and waste). We are now working towards an Implementation Plan.

The Residential Case Study project has been completed, funded by the Insurance Council of Australia. The project provides a pathway for considering flood impacts on residential homes and estimating damage cost curves to then inform mitigation priorities and measures. The project demonstrated the gaps that need resolving first before more accurate modelling can occur and mitigation projects identified at each locality within the region.

The majority of SECCCA members continue to use SECCCA's BriefEzy tool to determine ESD design criteria during project tendering processes. This year, a version update was completed, which has ensured the tool is aligned to current legislative requirements and standards. As well as optimising some of its features and content based on feedback from SECCCA members. Including, a function to select an 'all-electric' specification. An NSW edition is also under development funded by 3 NSW councils.

Another important piece of work was completed this year, the Carbon Sink Study. This comprehensive report investigates the public and private land available in the SECCCA region for carbon sequestration and the opportunities and mechanisms that councils and SECCCA may consider in the establishment of a Carbon Sink program. The outcomes of the study are currently under consideration by SECCCA.

SECCCA continued its advocacy efforts by visiting Canberra during sitting week in October, meeting with our Federal decision makers with SECCCA's delegation. Key topics covered included climate risk, community emission reductions and opportunities for collaboration.

As we wrapped up many projects this year, our focus was also spent heavily on planning for the next four years. Since the development of the 2019-24 Strategic Plan, the context to which SECCCA operates has shifted. Following a planning process earlier this year in April with the SECCCA Councillor Advisory Group and Management Committee, we heard we need to step up, reflective of the task at hand. SECCCA is now planning on increasing ambition and intensifying our efforts. There are some significant programs and projects opportunities which have been proposed within the next Strategic Plan 2024-2028: *Working Together for Stronger Climate Action*.

The Leaders Breakfast in October marked the launch of the new Strategy where prominent State Members of Parliament, industry and business groups, peak bodies and SECCCA member councillors, executives and officers came together in support of our new Strategy, recognising the importance of a partnership approach to deliver stronger results for our local communities.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we welcome a new CEO, finalise our current Strategic Plan and move into a new chapter of climate action, delivering with greater impact and ambition over the next four years.



Daniel Pleiter

TREASURER'S OPENING STATEMENT – VANDANA RAMA

Climate change calls for collective action, which sits at the core of the South East Council's Climate Change Alliance programs and initiatives. Backed by nine member Councils, SECCCA works towards an informed strategic work program focused on community resilience, business energy support, advocacy and research.

SECCCA continues to maintain a sustainable financial base with a proven track record of managing large scale projects efficiently within agreed budget and timelines. This is attributed to the dedicated staff at SECCCA, in particular Dan Pleiter (Acting CEO) and Georgia Langmaid (Executive Support Officer), who work tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver projects.

The contribution of Council officers through the Project Management Committee, Projects Subcommittee and Councillor Advisory Group toward projects and advocacy is a most welcome in-kind support that is critical to the success of SECCCA.

My role as treasurer became easy with the work done by SECCCA's accountants, Louise Sutton and Josephine Anne from Accountable Business Services, who are always available to answer questions and provide clarification. In my capacity as treasurer I also sit in the Governance Risk and Finance committee and am confident that the robust risk management systems mitigates and adequately manages financial and reputational risks to SECCCA and its members.

I would like to quote former United State of America President Barak Obama "We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last to be able to do anything about it". The demand for collaborative action at a regional scale has never been greater, but we are part of a dynamic, resourceful and well placed organisation, SECCCA, to enable Councils to accelerate efforts towards reducing carbon emissions and to prepare for the changing climate.



Vandana Rama

The Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023, and the Statement of Financial Position 30 June 2023, are included in the Independent Auditor's Report.

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SECCCA COUNCILLOR ADVISORY GROUP



THE COUNCILLOR ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) IS A BODY OF 15 COUNCILLORS FROM ACROSS THE NINE SECCCA COUNCIL AREAS.

It represents the local government face of SECCCA, who champion our mission within their council areas. The CAG meet regularly to implement the SECCCA strategic plan through advocacy to political representatives, community members and business groups.

We thank the following CAG members for their ongoing commitment to putting words into action, and in pursuing climate action in the SECCCA region:



Cr Michael Whelan

Councillor Advisory Group Chair
Mayor, Bass Coast Shire Council



Cr Leticia Laing

Bass Coast Shire Council



Cr Clarke Martin

Bayside City Council



Cr Fiona Stitfold

Bayside City Council



Cr Jeff Springfield

Mayor, Cardinia Shire Council



Cr Stephanie Davies

Cardinia Shire Council



Noelene Duff PSM

City of Casey



Cr Rhonda Garad

City of Greater Dandenong



Cr Nathan Conroy

Mayor - City of Frankston



Cr Claire Harvey

Councillor Advisory Group
Deputy Chair
City of Frankston



Cr Chris Hill

City of Kingston



Cr Hadi Saab

City of Kingston



Cr Despi O-Connor

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Council



Cr Sarah Race

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Council



Cr Peter Martin

City of Port Phillip

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SECCCA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Image supplied by Bass Coast

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bass Coast Shire Council

Simon Woodland

Manager Sustainable Environment

SECCCA President

Christian Slattery

Climate Emergency Project Officer

City of Kingston

Helen Scott

Team Leader, Environmental Planning

Susannah Kenny

Climate Emergency Lead

SECCCA Vice-President

Bayside City Council

Carmel Ron

Sustainable Strategy Officer

Warren Smith

Climate and Environmental Sustainability
Coordinator

City of Port Philip

Julian Donien

Principal Sustainability Partnerships
Officer

Renae Walton

Principal Climate Adaptation Officer

Cardinia Shire Council

Desiree Lovell

Manager Environment and Heritage

Frankston City Council

Rinchen Wilson

Climate and Sustainability Project Officer

Mary-Kate Hockey

Coordinator Climate and Sustainability

SECCCA Secretary

City of Casey

Vandana Rama

Team Leader Sustainability and
Environment

SECCCA Treasurer

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Chris Yorke

Energy and Carbon Management Officer

Nicci Tsernjavski

Climate Change Partnerships Officer

City of Greater Dandenong

Jessica Harrison

Team Leader Sustainability Planning

Steph Karras

Sustainability Planner

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ADVOCATING FOR CLIMATE ACTION



Canberra 2023 delegations

SECCCA was privileged to visit Canberra during sitting week on 19 October, meeting with Federal decision makers with SECCCA's delegation.

We met with Advisor to the Hon Catherine King MP, Kristy McBain MP, Advisor to the Hon Murray Watt, Advisors to the Hon Jenny McAllister. Key topics covered included climate risk, community emission reductions and opportunities for collaboration.

Through SECCCA's work we have identified the need for further investment in climate resilient infrastructure. This was based on SECCCA's work in the Asset Vulnerability Assessment where SECCCA investigated the vulnerability of council roads, drains and buildings to the impacts of climate change.

There is a clear appreciation from the Federal level of the challenges facing local government and there are plans underway to consult with key stakeholders through the National Urban Policy. This will provide an opportunity to discuss urban planning and the challenges facing our major cities, from equitable access to jobs, homes, and services, to climate impacts and decarbonisation. It will bring together a vision for sustainable growth in our cities.

SECCCA highlighted the vulnerabilities to population groups within the region, from the elderly in response to the impacts of heat, local areas subject to flooding and the climate impacts on youth.

We discussed the need for constructive collaboration to identify data and gaps that help inform vulnerability assessments and inform better planning and programs to address these issues.

Specifically, there is a need for an equitable transition to ensure that everyone in our community is able to transition to a zero-carbon economy.

The Federal Government's Energy Savings Package was discussed, including the implementation of the Package by prioritising the Household Energy Upgrades Fund for vulnerable and low-income households. These recommendations seek to leverage the trusted brand and extensive experience of councils in the delivery of residential solar and upgrade programs, particularly for vulnerable and culturally diverse communities.

The Federal Government recognises the continuous effort of local government and the Alliances in managing action on climate change over the last decade, in the absence of consistent national leadership. Continuous collaboration is welcomed to build on the work that the Federal Government has initiated in this term.

Along with many other issues, SECCCA continues to advocate for increasing support across all key emission sectors such as transport, residential, commercial, industrial, and waste. We look forward to continuing to represent the collective views of our member councils.

Annual Leaders Breakfast



Pictured: The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Climate Action of Victoria.

A highlight on the SECCCA calendar was the Annual Leaders Breakfast in November where we launched the Strategic Plan 2024-28: Working Together for Stronger Climate Action. We hosted over 70 leaders and politicians at the Woodlands Golf Course, united in their support for climate action.

SECCCA's new Strategic Plan identifies practical programs for delivery with SECCCA's nine local council members, and State and Federal Government, business and industry partners. The Plan has been drafted by SECCCA representatives to reflect the current operating context and heightened aspirations of councils and communities in our region.

A highlight of the day was the keynote from The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Climate Action. The Minister's keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion featuring Mr John Bradley, Secretary of the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Mr Tom Campbell, Co-Founder Footy for Climate Alliance, Ms Ange Nichols Net Zero Lead for the Insurance Council of Australia and Cr Michael Whelan Mayor of Bass Coast.

This annual event recognised the importance of a partnership approach to deliver stronger results for local communities and highlighted the value provided by SECCCA as a mechanism for assisting member councils to achieve ambitious climate action.



Image supplied by Grant Scott-Hayward

Pictured: Cr Michael Whelan (Chair SECCCA, Mayor Bass Coast), John Bradley (Secretary of the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action in the Victorian Government), Tom Campbell (Co-founder Footy for Climate), Kamahl (MC).



Image supplied by Grant Scott-Hayward

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PROJECTS



Image supplied by City of Port Phillip

Community Resilience Project with the Minderoo Foundation

Leveraging the outputs of the SECCCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project, and funded by the Minderoo Foundation, the Enhancing Community Resilience Project assesses the vulnerability and resilience of the SECCCA region to climate change.

Working with SECCCA councils, community representatives and climate science experts, the project is identifying and visualising the community services, demographics, locations, and communities that require intervention to help build community resilience. The project is on track to be completed by early 2024.

The rich data set that this project provides, enables local government to have a detailed understanding of segments of the community at greater risk and why. Therefore, allowing for a targeted and evidence-based service, program and/or communication piece to be designed to help mitigate vulnerability and build community resilience.

Two co-design workshops were undertaken this year with community members to identify priorities for building community climate resilience.

The Frankston co-design worked with young people from two local high schools on their experiences and targeted communication needs. The outcome of this workshop results in a project concept focusing on co-designing a communications package. Whilst still under development, the communications piece will be designed in a format tailored to young people to increase awareness of climate change impacts, climate risks relevant to young people and their mitigation and adaptation options. communications piece.

The Bayside co-design workshop identified priorities to build community climate resilience among older people. Key aspects include a location audit of assets/facilities older (55+) community members access during extreme weather, particularly heat. A communications piece was also identified as a priority, focusing on accessing certain assets in certain scenarios, for example such as a power outage.

It is intended that these project concepts that resulted from facilitating these co-design workshops will form part of the final implementation phase of this project.

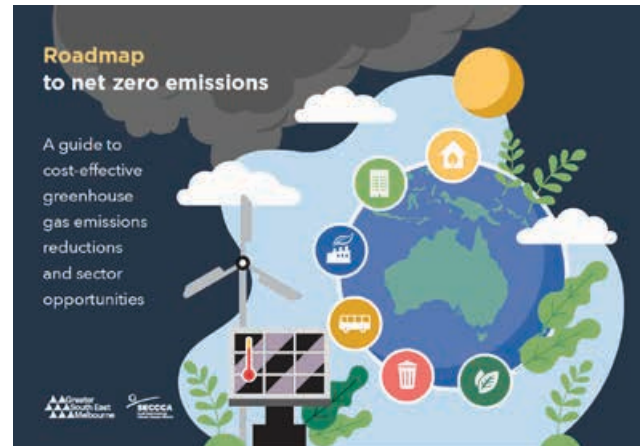
Overall, this project allows for the identification of those segments of community at greater impact to climate change, the contributing factors as to why and the ways to design and/or improve services or identify other stakeholders best placed to respond.

GSEM Net Zero Emissions Roadmap

In partnership with GSEM (Greater South East Melbourne) a regional Zero Emissions Roadmap for the South East Melbourne has been developed, presenting an opportunity to proactively and collaboratively position the region to benefit and prosper in a low emissions world. This builds off from the rationale for a Zero Emissions Roadmap developed in 2021. GSEM commissioned and funded the Roadmap to Net Zero Emissions, this was led by the City of Casey CEO on behalf of GSEM. Given SECCCA alignment in terms of membership and strategic goals, SECCCA project managed the delivery of the Roadmap.

The Roadmap identifies key roles for GSEM and SECCCA member councils in the task of reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 across five key sectors (industrial, commercial, residential, transport and waste). Although community carbon emissions are owned by other entities or individuals within these five private sectors, councils accept that they have a responsibility to assist the community to reduce emissions to support the longer-term goal of providing a safe climate for individuals living within the community and to ensure an equitable transition.

Now that the Roadmap is completed, both organisations along with key stakeholders are continuing to work together and create the administrative structures needed to progress and implement the Roadmap.



Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit

The Small Business Climate Adaptation Toolkit aims to help small business owners prepare for the impacts of climate change by building an adaptation plan for their business through a seven-step process.

The project was implemented in 2022 by Science into Action and funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning as part of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Greater Melbourne.

The toolkit has been piloted with a selection of small businesses local to the SECCCA region, across a variety of sectors. These case studies as well as the toolkit, instruction video, literature review and project report can be found [here](#).



Residential Case Study

The Residential Case Study was completed, providing a pathway for considering flood impacts on residential homes and estimating damage cost curves to then inform mitigation priorities and measures.

The project proved challenging due to data limitations, namely the absence of floor height data, flood depth data from Melbourne Water, councils own localised modelling data out of scope and other building information.

As such, the project demonstrated the gaps that need resolving first before more accurate modelling can occur and mitigation projects identified at each locality within the region. The outcomes of this project will return to the SECCCA Projects Subcommittee for evaluation and review for future work.

SECCCA thanks the five participating councils for their commitment to deliver this project, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, Frankston, Kingston and Bayside as well as the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) for their commitment and funding the project. The ICA have been invaluable in understanding the importance of climate change adaptation to support a functioning insurance industry and the need for multi-sector collaboration.

Powering Up

'[Powering Up](#)' is a navigation tool intended to provide SECCCA member councils with links to existing key resources and information to assist in the conversion of council-owned buildings to become fully-electric, removing all natural gas, as well as supporting their community to become net zero. The intended user of this tool is local government, however any businesses that uses commercial products may also find this resource useful.

This tool is designed to help the user better understand the case for electrification, considerations when electrifying and the types of technologies that can be used today to replace natural gas systems, including cooktops, heat pumps and includes case studies throughout.

Carbon Sink Study

The Carbon Sink Study is now complete and provided a region-wide study, investigating the carbon sequestration opportunities for the south east Melbourne region.

The comprehensive report investigated the public and private land available in the SECCCA region for carbon sequestration and the opportunities and mechanisms that councils and SECCCA may consider in the establishment of a Carbon Sink program. This in turn will assist councils to meet their varying emission reduction and net zero targets.

The outcomes of the study are currently under consideration by SECCCA.

This project was completed by project consultants Environmental Accounting Services.

BriefEzy

BriefEzy produces ESD requirements is used by majority of SECCCA members as part of the preparation of tender documentation, and the results included in the documentation when seeking architectural services.

BriefEzy is versatile and adaptable and the tool is regularly monitored and updated to ensure its relevance and usability. The 2022 version update explored how BriefEzy is currently being used by member councils, and future improvements and opportunities.

The tool is now aligned to current legislative requirements and standards and includes a function to select an 'all-electric' specification. An NSW edition is also under development funded by 3 NSW councils.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Image supplied by Mornington Peninsula Shire, credit Ryan Eckersley

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STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue	4	1,159,090	1,147,839
Expenses			
Program expenses		(634,264)	(519,912)
Employee benefits expense		(488,106)	(511,419)
Administration and management fees		(70,465)	(46,174)
Training and development		-	(54)
Travel		(5,566)	(4,556)
Total expenses		<u>(1,198,401)</u>	<u>(1,082,115)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense		(39,311)	65,724
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense for the year attributable to the members of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc.	9	<u>(39,311)</u>	<u>65,724</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc.		<u>(39,311)</u>	<u>65,724</u>
Profit attributable to:			
Members of the parent entity		<u>(39,311)</u>	<u>65,724</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Members of the parent entity		(39,311)	65,724

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		632,184	839,589
Trade and other receivables		158,514	70,015
Prepayments		9,537	4,617
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		800,235	914,221
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	5	1,208	902
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		1,208	902
TOTAL ASSETS		801,443	915,123
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	89,363	128,679
Employee benefits	7	46,280	31,221
Revenue received in advance		443,317	481,872
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		578,960	641,772
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	7	1,836	13,393
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,836	13,393
TOTAL LIABILITIES		580,796	655,165
NET ASSETS		220,647	259,958
EQUITY			
New projects reserve	8	110,000	110,000
Accumulated losses	9	110,647	149,958
TOTAL EQUITY		220,647	259,958

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

2023

	Retained Earnings	Provision Fund Reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$0
Balance at 1 July 2022	149,958	110,000	259,958
Surplus / (deficit) after income tax expense for the year	(39,311)	-	(39,311)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	110,647	110,000	220,647
Balance at 30 June 2023	110,647	110,000	220,647

2022

	Retained Earnings	New Project Reserve	Provision Fund reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	84,234	-	110,000	194,234
Surplus / (deficit) after income tax expense for the year	65,724	-	-	65,724
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	149,958	-	110,000	259,958
Balance at 30 June 2022	149,958	-	110,000	259,958

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)	1,272,479	1,898,804
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(1,479,569)	(1,634,997)
Interest received	833	785
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	12 <u>(206,257)</u>	<u>264,592</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(1,148)</u>	-
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(1,148)</u>	-
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Net cash used by financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(207,405)	264,592
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>839,589</u>	<u>574,997</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u><u>632,184</u></u>	<u><u>839,589</u></u>



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOUTH EAST COUNCILS CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE INC

Report on the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by the members of the committee.

In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view, in all material respects, of the financial position of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements, and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria*.

Basis for Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Australian and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc to meet the requirements of *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Committee Members for the Financial Report

The Committee Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 Victoria* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee members are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee members either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.



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Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Joel Hernandez, CA
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20 November 2023
Blackburn, Victoria

