



RSAB Meeting MINUTES

Held 1pm Wednesday 15th May 2018 at Barkly Motor Lodge Main Road Ballarat

Chair: Ian Rossiter (BREAZE)

Minutes: Ian Rossiter

Agenda Items	Discussion	Responsibility
1. Welcome/ Apologies/ Introductions	<p>Attendance: Ian Rossiter (BREAZE), Belinda Coates (BCC), Keith Jackson (GCWWRRG), Janene Trickey (DELWP), Hazen Cleary (PLEA Network), Ross Irving (SV), Lavergne Lehman (GCWWRRG), Cherie Draper (BEN), Peter Noble (BEN).</p> <p>Apologies: Craig Hurley, Sebastian Kline, Quenton Gay, Ross Irving.</p> <p>Introductions: Peter Noble was introduced as the Chair of Ballarat Environment Network</p>	
2. Minutes of Combined RSAB and Community Power Hub Meeting 21/3/18	<p>The minutes were accepted from the previous meeting, moved Keith Jackson, seconded Ross Irving.</p>	
3. Actions Arising from Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to City of Ballarat re biodiversity resources has been forwarded and a meeting has been convened for 29 May with CEO, relevant officers and Ian Rossiter. • Proposed meeting schedule see item below • City of Ballarat Carbon Neutrality Plan Ian has discussed process with Scott White (Environmental Evolution) who is preparing the plan and he is wanting to meet with any interested RSAB members during July to get input into the strategy. Ian Rossiter volunteered. 	
4. Region Specific Climate Change Awareness Induction Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazen Cleary (PLEA Network) provided a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed awareness program being developed with assistance from CSIRO for newly elected Councils to understand the issues and responsibilities for local government in response to climate change. (See slides as PDF provided) • It is proposed to have two 2 hour sessions scheduled in 2019/2020. • The prototype is being developed for the City of Ballarat and can then be used as a template for 	

	<p>other Councils in the Region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSIRO will use its modelling to prepare documentation of how the Central Highlands Region's climate is changing. • The recent Local Government Act amendments now require Councils to consider impacts of climate change in decision making and prepare climate change adaptation plans for their municipalities. • The program will require RSAB volunteers to deliver presentations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water availability trends: surface and groundwater; droughts & floods – impact on urban areas & agriculture ○ Extreme events: heatwaves; bushfires – impact on emergency services & infrastructure ○ Biodiversity – impact on natural resources/environment 	
<p>5. Future RSAB Meeting Schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Waste to Energy evening community forum on Tuesday 19 June. The aim is to start the engagement with the Ballarat community on what waste to energy opportunities exist for our region, the infrastructure and behavioural changes needed for success, the benefits and the social licence issues. Determined that a panel discussion would be best so that with a moderator all the aspects can be discussed and the meeting doesn't get bogged down on single issue discussions. GCWWRRG have secured Barry Sullivan to participate. Belinda suggested we approach Eugene editor of Ballarat Courier to act as moderator. Venue suggestions were the Mechanics Institute or the Ballarat Library. • July Meeting agreed we combine with a Forum for Environment Officers from Councils and relevant authorities and Project Officers. • September meeting presents opportunity to meet with State Election candidates and give them an understanding of the regions sustainability issues and opportunities. 	
<p>6. Information Sharing</p>	<p>Ross Irving informed us that a state-wide report is available online SV Community perceptions on Climate Change. The document is useful as data supporting advocacy for taking action on climate change and advancing renewable energy. To view document http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Research/Victorians-perceptions-of-climate-change</p> <p>SV are interested in presenting its method and findings to other audiences. Suggested the Smart Living Ballarat lunchtime forums later this year.</p> <p>World Environment Day Activities arranged by BREAZE in conjunction with the City of Ballarat funded Smart Living Ballarat program will be a children's writing competition judged at the Ballarat Library on World Environment Day (5th June) and a screening of the film "Living the Change" at Regent Multiplex Cinemas 7.30pm (For info visit www.breaze.org.au)</p>	
<p>7. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday 17 July at 1pm (to include Council Environment Officers as invited guests and afternoon tea)</p>	

The role of local governments in tackling climate change in Victoria



New Council Climate Change Briefing – SESSION 1: context



93% of the community wants action on climate change from Local Government

How does science forecast the weather and climate projections for the future?



Climate is the clothes in your wardrobe - weather is what clothes you wear each day

State of the Climate 2016 – Australia



*How fast are CO₂ levels rising?
Natural state - 35ppm in 1000 years
Recent increase - 35ppm in 17 years
Rapid increase of CO₂ levels lead to global warming which is changing our climate*

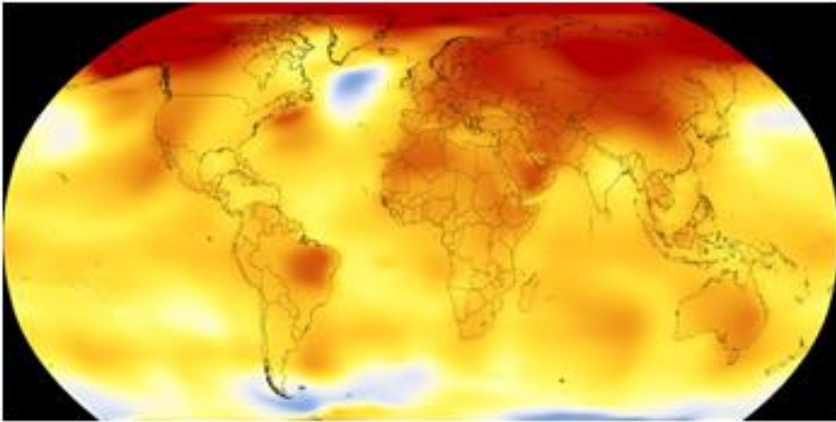
Projections for Central Highlands region

CSIRO presentation based, roughly on the format provided in the [Climate-Ready Victoria: Grampians publication](#) but tailored for the eastern end which is the Central Highlands region

This will include qualitative statements as well as some quantitative ranges of change, with confidence levels, about projected climate change and impacts. This represents scientific knowledge of future climate.

*It will take more than 1000 years and possibly more than 10,000 years for natural processes alone to reduce the **current** atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide from 400 parts per million (ppm) to pre-industrial levels below 300 ppm.*

How global surface temperatures are changing



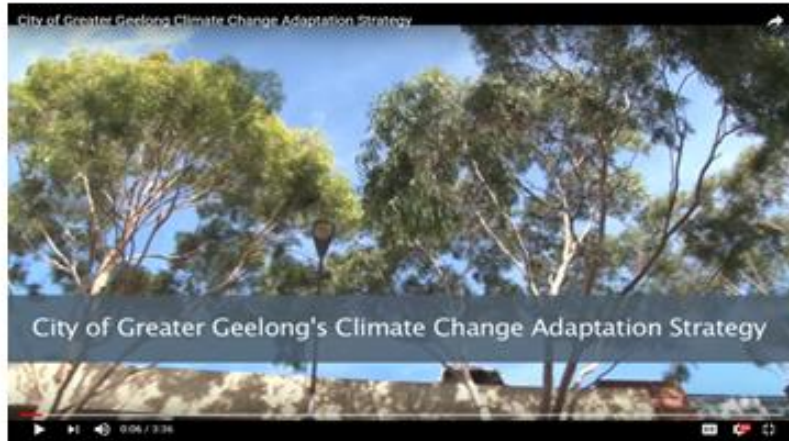
Carbon dioxide can remain in the atmosphere for thousands of years and takes about a decade to reach its maximum warming effect. In other words, even with all the changes we've already seen, we have yet to experience the full impact of the carbon we spewed in 2008 and every year since.

Impacts of a changing climate in our region

Presentations by local experts in the field (sourced from RSAB membership)

- Water availability trends: surface and groundwater; droughts & floods – impact on urban areas & agriculture
- Extreme events: heatwaves; bushfires – impact on emergency services & infrastructure
- Biodiversity – impact on natural resources/environment

New Council Climate Change Briefing – SESSION 2: Responsibilities of Council/councillors regarding climate change



Climate change framework for Councils - presentations by Council officers

Climate Change Act 2017 Victoria

What impact will the Act have on local government? The Act will not impose any mandatory obligations on local government but through its strategic planning and transparency requirements, the Act will contribute to a consistent and stable policy environment able to support innovation and action by local councils.



Local Government Act (extract) Victoria

Overarching governance principle:

(c) The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;

NOTE: Council officers insert their presentations in this section

Foundation documents for Council planning into the future

Ballarat Strategy outlines Council's vision and long term plan to manage change in Ballarat to 2040. This long term spatial strategy for Ballarat will guide future growth to the most efficient locations with the highest net community benefit as well as providing certainty for the community and the development industry on development areas and forms.

Council Plan describes Council's priorities and outcomes for its four-year term and how these will be resourced.

Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan outlines how Council and other local health organisations will work to address key health priorities to achieve a higher level of health and wellbeing for the people who live, learn, work and play in Ballarat.

NOTE: Council officers insert their presentations in this section

Managing risk for a changing climate

		Consequence				
		Trivial	Minor	Moderate	Major	Severe
Likelihood	Almost certain	L	H	H	E	E
	Likely	L	M	H	H	E
	Possible	L	M	M	H	E
	Unlikely	L	M	M	H	H
	Rare	L	L	M	M	H

E - Extreme risk, requiring immediate action.

H - High risk issue requiring additional research or some immediate action

M - Moderate risk issue that are likely to benefit from adaptation measures

L - Low risk issues that can be dealt with as and when they happen or they are considered acceptable should they happen

CoB Risk Management Register – A risk assessment was undertaken (2013) of the impacts of climate change to the organisation.

NOTE: Council officer to insert presentation in this section

Council policies & plans relating to mitigation and adaptation



Council policies & plans relating to mitigation and adaptation

Draft Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2018-22. The City of Ballarat Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2018-22 (the Strategy) considers current and future waste management and resource recovery in the City of Ballarat. The Strategy identifies long-term strategic direction for sustainable waste management and provides a focus on the City of Ballarat's Targets to be achieved over the next five years.

Municipal Emergency Management Plan addresses the prevention of, response to and recovery from, emergencies within the City of Ballarat. The aim of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMPlan) is to establish and maintain a community with a high degree of resilience and the ability to cope with emergencies that are likely to impact on the City of Ballarat.

NOTE: Council officers insert their presentations in this section

Council policies & plans relating to mitigation and adaptation

Environment Sustainability Strategy 2016 is the City of Ballarat's framework for a more sustainable future. Building on the foundation of the Council's previous conservation strategies, this strategy provides a set of practical initiatives that will help deliver Council's primary environment and sustainability commitments.

Greening Ballarat - Green Blue City Action Plan provides a review of forthcoming council projects and suggested priority areas and recommends a portfolio of investments in the next five years.

Ballarat Urban Forest Strategy is currently investigating a target of at least 40% urban canopy coverage for public and private land by 2040. There are many benefits to developing and improving the urban forest including supporting air quality, water management, provision of shade, habitat and nutrient cycling, and providing the high amenity city valued by the residents and visitors alike.

Carbon Neutrality Plan is being developed for the City of Ballarat to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025;

NOTE: Council officers insert their presentations in this section

Opportunity for innovation towards a low carbon economy



Integrated waste management systems

Changing the energy mix



NOTE: RSAB member presentations inserted in this section

Questions & discussion

