



SECCCA

South East Councils
Climate Change Alliance



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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.

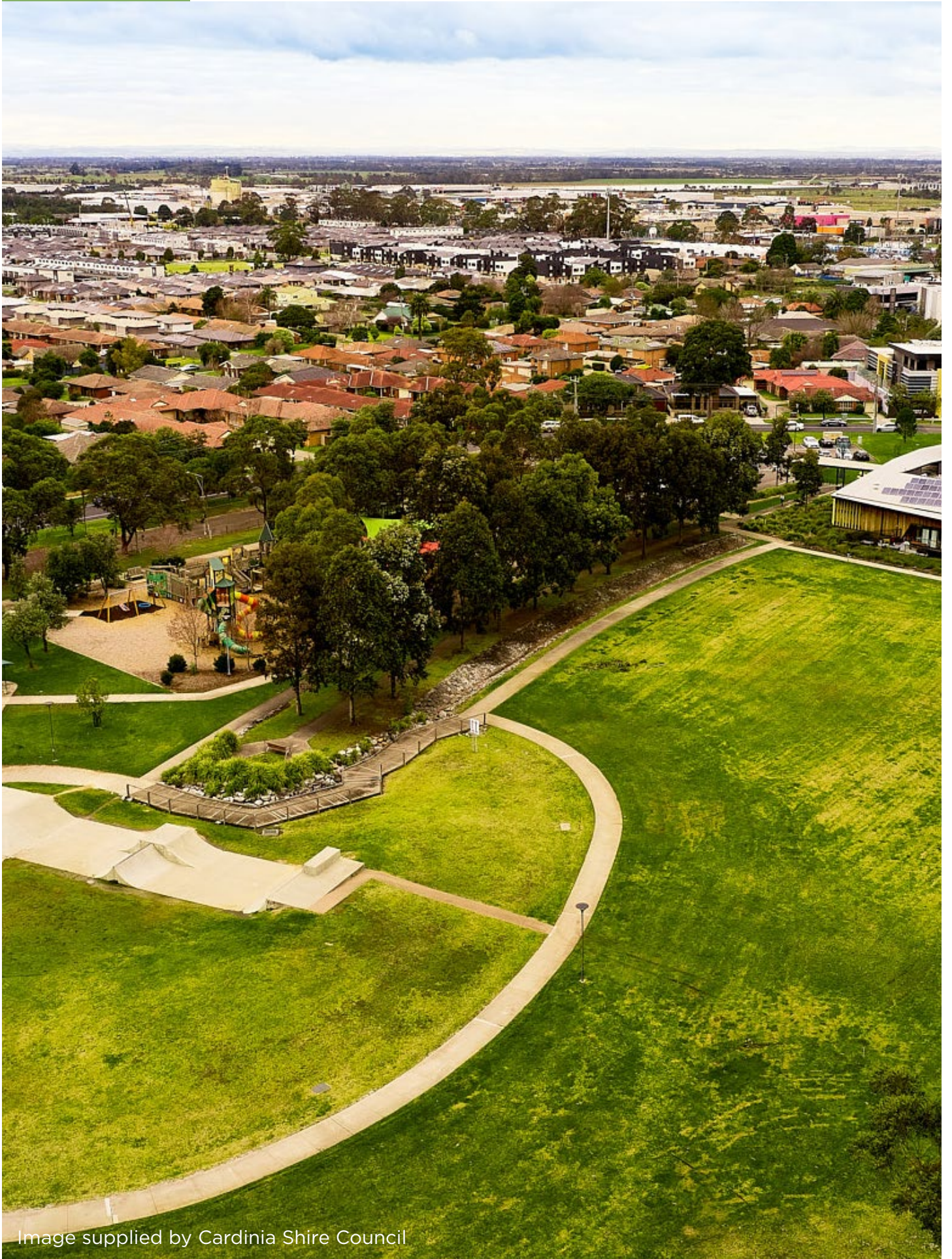


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CHAIR COUNCILLOR ADVISORY GROUP AND MAYOR OF BASS COAST SHIRE COUNCIL- CR MICHAEL WHELAN

As 2022 draws to a close I am pleased to reflect on the new doors that have opened to our group this year and feel invigorated by the opportunities ahead for 2023.

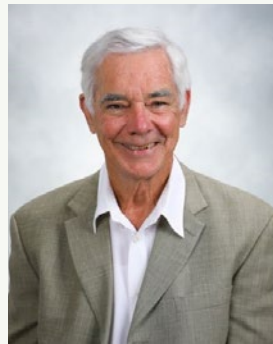
As a collaboration of nine councils in Victoria's south east region, our Councillor Advisory Group is an essential part of delivering informed and community-focused action on climate. I would like to thank the 15 members of the Councillor Advisory Group for their considered and positive contribution to the climate future of our region in addition to their already busy roles.

I am immensely proud of the work we undertook to develop our Policy Platform, which outlines comprehensive policy actions and roadmap for delivery. Importantly, it also illustrates that climate targets are achievable - they just need the right level of investment from government.

Being a federal and Victorian election year, 2022 saw our group step up our advocacy campaign and engage candidates and elected representatives on the need for climate action. This campaign has not only delivered a greater awareness and appreciation for the work of our organisation but also fostered positive relationships with politicians and influencers alike.

A highlight of the year was the hugely successful Leaders Breakfast and launch of our Policy Platform. We welcomed politicians, councillors, business and media to discuss and share their commitment to climate action, as well as discussing ways to minimise climate impacts in our community.

Looking ahead, the Councillor Advisory Group are keen to ensure that good intentions are put into action. The commitment from our member councils is unwavering and we are determined to build on the successes of the past year.



Cr Michael Whelan

PRESIDENTS REPORT - EMILY BOUCHER

The last year has proven SECCCA's capabilities as a small but mighty organisation.

A highlight has been the development of our Policy Platform which seeks a legislated 67% reduction in emissions by 2030 (or earlier) so we may keep global warming below 1.5 degrees through a range of investments in planning and programs.

With the development of the Policy Platform we've been able to speak to many newly elected federal members along with state officials and candidates in the lead up to the Victorian State Election in November. The sentiment we have heard is that the climate wars are over, however we are yet to see real and strong action on how our climate and communities will benefit.

The development of SECCCA's Policy Platform afforded myself, Daniel Pleiter the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Michael Whelan, the Chair of the Councillor Advisory Group the opportunity to travel to Canberra to talk to Ministers and their advisors about how they can make large scale, meaningful change on climate policy. It was fortuitous timing with the climate change bill passing through the House of Representatives that very day. I am so thankful for the chance to have such a powerful experience.

This year SECCCA has focused on continuing to strengthen partnerships with the other climate change alliances and have worked closely with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to ensure climate remains a focus. Our relationship with the Greater South East Melbourne group (GSEM) has deepened, with a number of projects currently under development.

It would be remiss of me not to touch on the events at the start of the year which shook SECCCA to its core, with our CEO Dominique being involved in an incident which resulted in her taking extended leave. I am very thankful that Dominique has displayed grit and determination with her recovery, such that she is expected to make a full recovery and join us again at the helm of the organisation.

In the face of such traumatic news, I am so grateful for the willingness of people to step up. Daniel Pleiter has been tremendous in the role of Acting CEO, rising to the challenge and displaying great ability and success. This again demonstrates the resilience of SECCCA and our people.

The engagement of Councillors across the region through the Councillor Advisory Group has never been stronger. We are represented well across the region by passionate Councillors who are willing to invest their time into this small, but increasingly influential organisation. I must express personal thanks to Michael, his vision for this group and drive as our leader, resulting in much of SECCCA's success over the last twelve months.

As I reflect on the strength of SECCCA I am once again grateful for the expertise around the management table. The Council representatives are diverse in their skills, experience and roles, and it is that diversity which makes us stronger.

I am so very proud of the achievements of SECCCA, which would not have been possible without the passion and commitment of the Council staff and the leadership and drive of our amazing SECCCA team.

This will be my last President's Report as I step down from the role at the upcoming AGM. After four years as President and over a decade's involvement in SECCCA I am optimistic for the future.

I value the friendship of the colleagues I have worked alongside for such an extensive period, and I have confidence in the strength of the organisation to overcome any future adversity, as well as great belief in the amazing outcomes it will deliver for its members and our community.



Emily Boucher

ACTING SECCCA CEO REPORT - DANIEL PLEITER

This year has seen many great outcomes, new opportunities, and unexpected challenges for SECCCA. With rapidly changing social, political and organisational conditions we've all learned to be more agile, to ensure we continue to deliver the climate change responses our community needs. We are consistently guided by the need to do our part in keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, and to adapt to the changes in climate ahead.

We commenced the year with the Small Business Energy Saver project, employing Victoria Gerrard and Chloe Michaelides during COVID lockdowns to deliver the project. Through some innovative engagement methods, the team commenced 'virtual street walks' to help gain some local knowledge and kick-start telephone conversations with businesses. The project resulted in significant emissions reductions and despite the many challenges the project represents SECCCA's first steps in assisting small businesses to reduce emissions.

The year ended with the completion of the Asset Vulnerability Project. This is a significant piece of work and a milestone project for member councils to better manage their road, drainage, and building assets, considering the impacts of climate change. With funding from the State Government, we also launched a 'Climate Vulnerability Guide' for other Victorian councils.

With Dominique La Fontaine's foresight, the groundwork was laid for the development and commencement of SECCCA's first Advocacy Program. Through some unexpected events I stepped up into the CEO role to lead the team and this new program while Dominique took leave.

Through the support and dedication from the Councillor Advisory Group (CAG), led by Mayor of Bass Coast Councillor Michael Whelan, SECCCA began advocating for our region's needs, receiving a positive reception from candidates and elected representatives at the state and federal level. We have identified the need for significant investment in adaptation, low carbon transport and creating greener, cooler, more liveable cities as well as net zero carbon buildings. This work is grounded in a commitment to achieve net zero by 2040 or earlier.

With lockdowns ending and a new Federal Government coming to power with promises to deliver a strong climate change response, there was renewed optimism around addressing climate change at a national level.

Early in the year SECCCA also commenced a new community project, funded by the Minderoo Foundation. We welcomed Julie Kirkwood to manage this project which investigated the impacts of climate change on specific communities, their vulnerability and how to build community resilience through new or improved services.

SECCCA also completed a comprehensive 'Electric Vehicle Charging Roadmap,' which detailed the ideal locations and requirements for electric vehicle charging stations throughout the region. This work provides greater certainty for private installers and funders to strategically roll out the charging networks needed for the ever-increasing number of electric vehicles on our roads.

Thanks to a collective effort we've delivered our plans, with more projects in the pipeline and many already commenced. With the recent employment of Georgia Langmaid to assist in project delivery, and the welcome return of Dominique we are well positioned to continue this work. We also thank and farewell our Administration Officer Annie Forster as she returns to study.

Thanks to all the members of SECCCA for their commitment to our work, namely the councillors and officers that faithfully represent their councils and regional interests to address climate change. Particularly, Emily Boucher SECCCA President who has presided over the organisation for many years and whose leadership has directed SECCCA's success.

We are also supported by experts in their respective fields that assist SECCCA to deliver high quality projects. In particular, Spatial Vision, Science into Action, Scientell, Collective Position and the Institute of Sensible Transport - we couldn't do this work without you, thank-you.

Finally, thank you to our SECCCA staff for your diligence and dedication in delivering exceptional project outcomes.

On behalf of the SECCCA team I'm pleased to share the achievements of this past year and I'm looking forward to the next!



Daniel Pleiter

TREASURER'S OPENING STATEMENT - JULIAN DONLEN

Through our nine member Councils, SECCCA has heard the call for urgent action to address the impacts of climate change. In response, the organisation has strategically invested in programs and resources in 2021/22.

While recovering from the uncertainty of the pandemic, several new projects have attracted significant funding. Managing larger projects and increased advocacy objectives has also required increased staffing. SECCCA has been able to maintain its secure financial base and through strategic planning, even grow its capacity to deliver.

Special thanks to Dan Pleiter, who as Acting CEO across much of 2021/22 led our capable staff to productively deliver projects within budget and timelines. The contribution of Council officers and Councillor Advisory Group members toward projects and advocacy also needs to be recognised as a valuable 'in-kind' resource.

The demand for collaborative action at a regional scale has never been greater, but we are part of a resourceful, aligned and productive organisation which is rising to the shared challenge.

Thank you to our accountants, Louise Sutton and Josephine Anne from Accountable Business Services, who again provided excellent guidance and assistance throughout the year. Thank you also to Joel Hernandez and staff from RDL Accountants for auditing our financial statements.



Julian Donlen

The Detailed Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 June 2022, and the Statement of Financial Position 30 June 2022, are included in the Independent Auditor's Report.

SECCCA CEO FUTURE PLANS - DOMINIQUE LA FONTAINE

I am so proud of what the team has delivered this past year. Built upon the effectiveness and successes of SECCCA's previous year, the last 12 months have demonstrated the tremendous commitment of all involved. Taking real and practical action to address the challenge and opportunities climate change presents.

Looking ahead SECCCA will of course continue our key projects including our work on building the communities' resilience to climate change and developing a net zero emissions pathway for the south east in conjunction with GSEM. We will also undertake a carbon sink study for the region, update our Brief Ezy tool, explore how councils can adopt sustainable procurement practices and assist councils to accelerate sustainable buildings by developing 'green' tenancies.

We will welcome in a new Victorian Government and along with the engagement already undertaken with the new Federal Government, we will continue the success of our advocacy program to ultimately achieve our agreed policy positions.

The Councillor Advisory Group, now having operated for several years, has proven how the councillors can contribute greatly to the work we do and support SECCCA's aims and objectives. I look very much forward to working with our CAG.

And I must acknowledge here the truly outstanding role that Emily Boucher has played as our President. Without her we would not have achieved what we have. I would also like to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone, including Dan Pleiter, who has supported me over the last months. I am looking forward to a full return and can't wait to see SECCCA's next achievements.



Dominique La Fontaine



Image supplied by Cardinia Shire Council

THE 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



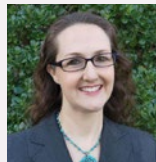
Cr Nathan Conroy

Mayor - City of Frankston



Cr Leticia Laing

Bass Coast Shire Council



Cr Claire Harvey

City of Frankston



Cr Clarke Martin

Bayside City Council



Cr Chris Hill

City of Kingston



Cr Fiona Stitfold

Bayside City Council



Cr Hadi Saab

City of Kingston



Cr Jeff Springfield

Mayor, Cardinia Shire Council



Cr Kerri McCafferty

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council



Cr Stephanie Davies

Cardinia Shire Council



Cr Sarah Race

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council



Noelene Duff PSM

City of Casey



Cr Katherine Copsey

City of Port Phillip



Cr Rhonda Garad

City of Greater Dandenong



Image supplied by Cardinia Shire Council

IN 2022 SECCCA JOINED WITH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FIRM COLLECTIVE POSITION TO MAKE THE CASE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS THAT MORE MUST BE DONE AT A NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL TO ADDRESS CLIMATE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

SECCCA began the advocacy campaign by looking at the range of climate policies held by our member councils. Analysing where there were similarities, we were able to come to a collective position and form a united call to action.

This process culminated in the development of SECCCA's 2022 Policy Platform, a document representing the South East region with one voice. The platform calls for urgent action on climate change in our region, with the guiding mission of ensuring a safe and prosperous future for our communities. The policy platform lays out our recommendations for action and investment in our communities, while also extending a hand of partnership to work with the Victorian and Australian Governments on this task.

With a united position, SECCCA met with key decision makers at the state and federal level, to discuss the threats and the opportunities presented by climate change in our region. Over a period of four months SECCCA met with 29 key decision makers (see Appendix) including local Members of Parliament and Ministers who hold office in the SECCCA region.

The reception we received in these discussions was encouraging, in many meetings SECCCA was congratulated for being a champion of change with a clear path for action. We thank every MP and decision-maker for their time and their commitment to protecting their community through climate action.



Annual Leaders Breakfast

A highlight on the SECCCA calendar was the Annual Leaders Breakfast in August where we launched the 2022 SECCCA Policy Platform. We hosted over 60 leaders and politicians at the Woodlands Golf Course, united in their commitment to climate action.

The launch of the Policy Platform was a landmark moment, recommending that State and Federal Governments accelerate the task of reducing emissions throughout the south east region. The document outlined a policy wishlist as well as a roadmap for delivery in the lead up to the

Victorian state election.

A highlight of the day was the panel discussion with Cr Michael Whelan Mayor of Bass Coast, Mr Tim Richardson MP Member for Moordialloc and Ms Zoe Daniel the newly elected independent Member for Goldstein discussing the climate challenges facing the region.

This event highlighted the important role that local government plays in protecting communities from the impacts of climate changes and SECCCA's highly valued contribution to climate change policy.





04

PROJECTS

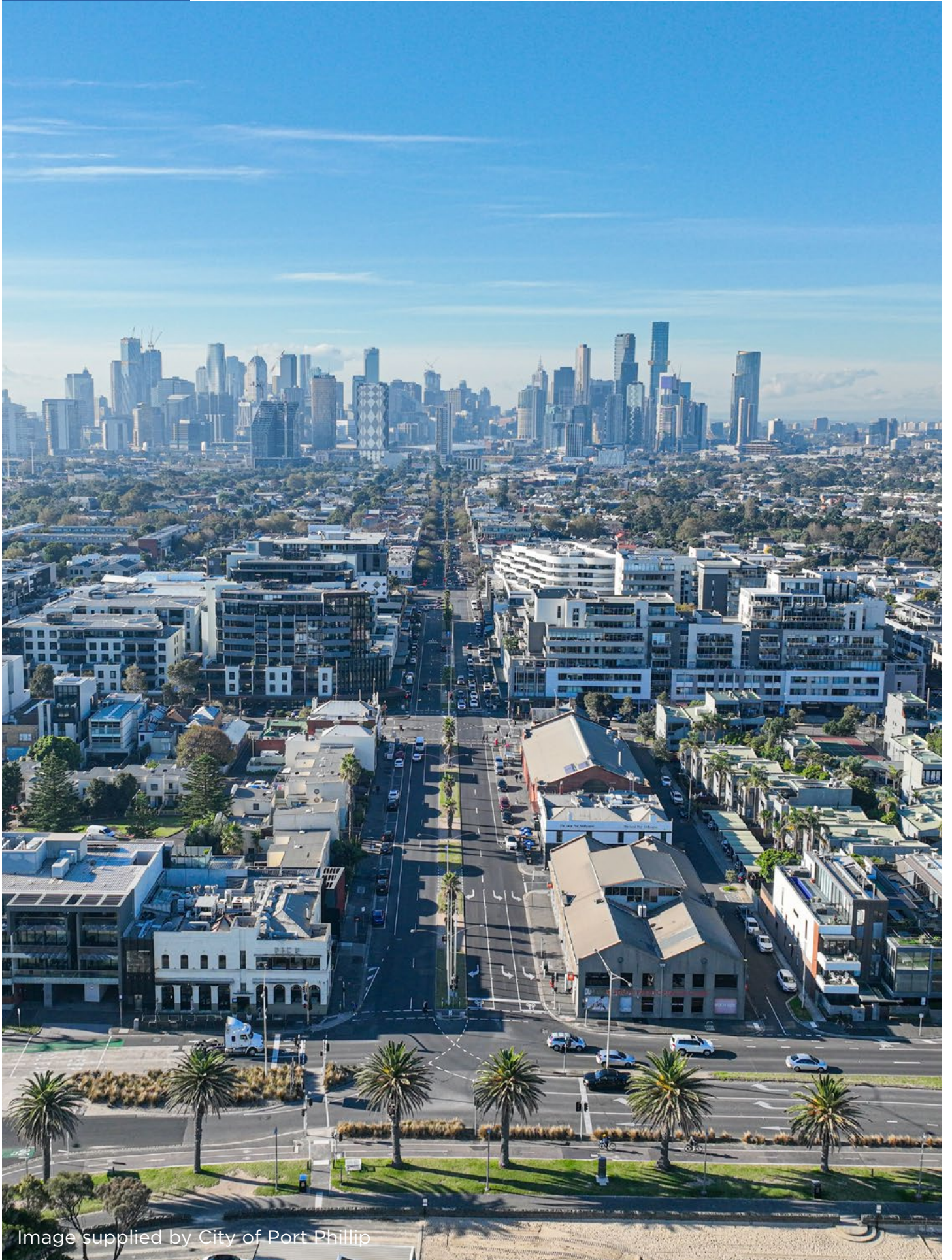


Image supplied by City of Port Phillip

Community Resilience Project with the Minderoo Foundation

The Enhancing Community Resilience Project aims to help prepare communities in the SECCCA region for current and future changes to the climate, by improving community preparedness through practical actions, tools, and resources.

Leveraging the outputs of the SECCCA Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project, the project is assessing the vulnerability and resilience of the SECCCA region to climate change.

Project participants will be empowered with information and access to new or improved services enabling them to make individual decisions to prepare for 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 December 2023.

We are grateful to the Minderoo Foundation for their sponsorship of the project. Minderoo Foundations is a modern philanthropic organisation taking on tough, persistent issues with the potential to drive massive change.

Small Business Energy Saver Program

The Small Business Energy Saver Program operated from July 2021 to July 2022, engaging with 1500 businesses across the SECCCA region to discuss opportunities to decrease their carbon emissions and energy bills by installing more efficient equipment within their premises.

The program was funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and offered a Sustainability Victoria's bonus of \$2,000 per business on top of equipment upgrades already available within the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program.

The outcome was a highly successful program, delivering on its targets well ahead of schedule and demonstrating a strong uptake for energy efficient upgrades, particularly in the small business sector.

EV Charging Infrastructure Roadmap

South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) requires the development of an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure charging roadmap, policy guidance and a snapshot of future trends, to help lower transport emissions.

SECCCA has a vision for the communities that reside within its borders to live a zero-emission lifestyle. SECCCA has declared a climate emergency and have recognised that 25% of emissions are transport related. Further reasons for this project include:

- Community sentiment on EVs is evolving rapidly, and some member councils have begun to receive requests from residents for public EV charging. EV charging equipment suppliers have approached councils seeking to install chargers and public land and clearer policy guidance is required to consistently manage these requests. The role of local government in facilitating this must be clarified;
- A stronger understanding is required on where future charging infrastructure should be placed, using a data-led approach; and
- A clear, robust plan for publicly available charging infrastructure will provide a strong foundation for SECCCA members to apply for funding to have chargers installed in their LGAs.

In response this project delivered:

1. EV Charging Roadmap, including:
 - a. Identification of optimal locations for publicly available charging
 - b. Cover the key issues that must be considered for the development of an implementation plan, delivered in 2030, for each LGA, to create a regional network.
2. Discussion paper and policy template, including:
 - a. Relevant planning and statutory requirements
 - b. Ownership models
 - c. Permits and approvals considerations for leasing public and private land (including on-street parking bays).

Future scan of emerging market trends and the implications of these trends for SECCCA members and the roadmap.



Image supplied by City of Kingston

Asset Vulnerability Assessment

Councils have various levels of understanding about how climate change will impact assets and service delivery, such as on roads, buildings and drainage. To facilitate strategic asset management, maintenance and prudent financial planning, councils should consider the impacts of climate change on assets.

The Asset Vulnerability Assessment Project developed tools and approaches to support SECCCA councils to understand how council buildings, drainage and local road assets will be impacted by various climate scenarios. This includes attributing a vulnerability rating to assets and identifying adaptation options that may increase asset resilience.

The project examined how climate change impacted expenditure on council assets through calculating the financial and economic cost of various adaptation options on several site-specific case studies. This information will assist with appropriate budget forecasting to ensure ongoing delivery of services to the community.

Building on this project SECCCA secured additional funding under the Victorian Government's Supporting our Regions to Adapt program. This funding was used to build capacity by delivering a Climate Vulnerability Guide to assist other councils undertake the same approaches themselves.





Image supplied by Mentone Girls Grammar

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	4	1,147,839	584,944
Expenses			
Program expenses		(519,912)	(234,185)
Employee benefits expense		(511,419)	(275,309)
Administration expenses		(46,174)	(29,363)
Training and development		(54)	(747)
Travel		(4,556)	(363)
Total expenses		<u>(1,082,115)</u>	<u>(539,967)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before income tax expense		65,724	44,977
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>65,724</u>	<u>44,977</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the members of South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc.		<u>65,724</u>	<u>44,977</u>
Profit attributable to:			
Members of the parent entity		<u>65,724</u>	<u>44,977</u>
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Members of the parent entity		65,724	44,977

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank		839,589	574,997
Trade receivables		70,015	-
Prepayments		4,617	8,988
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		914,221	583,985
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Plant and equipment	5	902	1,491
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		902	1,491
TOTAL ASSETS		915,123	585,476
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	6	128,679	30,801
Employee benefits	7	31,221	17,451
Revenue received in advance		481,872	332,466
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		641,772	380,718
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	7	13,393	10,524
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		13,393	10,524
TOTAL LIABILITIES		655,165	391,242
NET ASSETS		259,958	194,234
EQUITY			
New projects reserve	8	110,000	110,000
Retained earnings	9	149,958	84,234
TOTAL EQUITY		259,958	194,234

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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

2021

	Retained Earnings	New Project Reserve	Provision Fund reserve	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	91,962	57,295	-	149,257
Surplus / (deficit) after income tax expense for the year	44,977	-	-	44,977
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
Transfer to and from reserves	(52,705)	(57,295)	110,000	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	84,234	-	110,000	194,234
Balance at 30 June 2021	84,234	-	110,000	194,234

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	2022	2021
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)	1,898,804	611,147
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)	(1,634,997)	(617,002)
Interest received	785	1,059
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	11 <u>264,592</u>	<u>(4,796)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(1,785)
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,785)</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	264,592	(6,581)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>574,997</u>	<u>581,578</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u><u>839,589</u></u>	<u><u>574,997</u></u>



rdl.accountants
 60 - 64 Railway Road, Blackburn 3130
 PO Box 1088, Blackburn North 3130
 T. +61 3 9878 1477
 rdlaccountants.com.au
 ABN 84 164 947 290

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 2022, 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 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in the notes 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



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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.

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
rdl.accountants

4 November 2022
Blackburn, Victoria

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APPENDIX - ADVOCACY MEETINGS

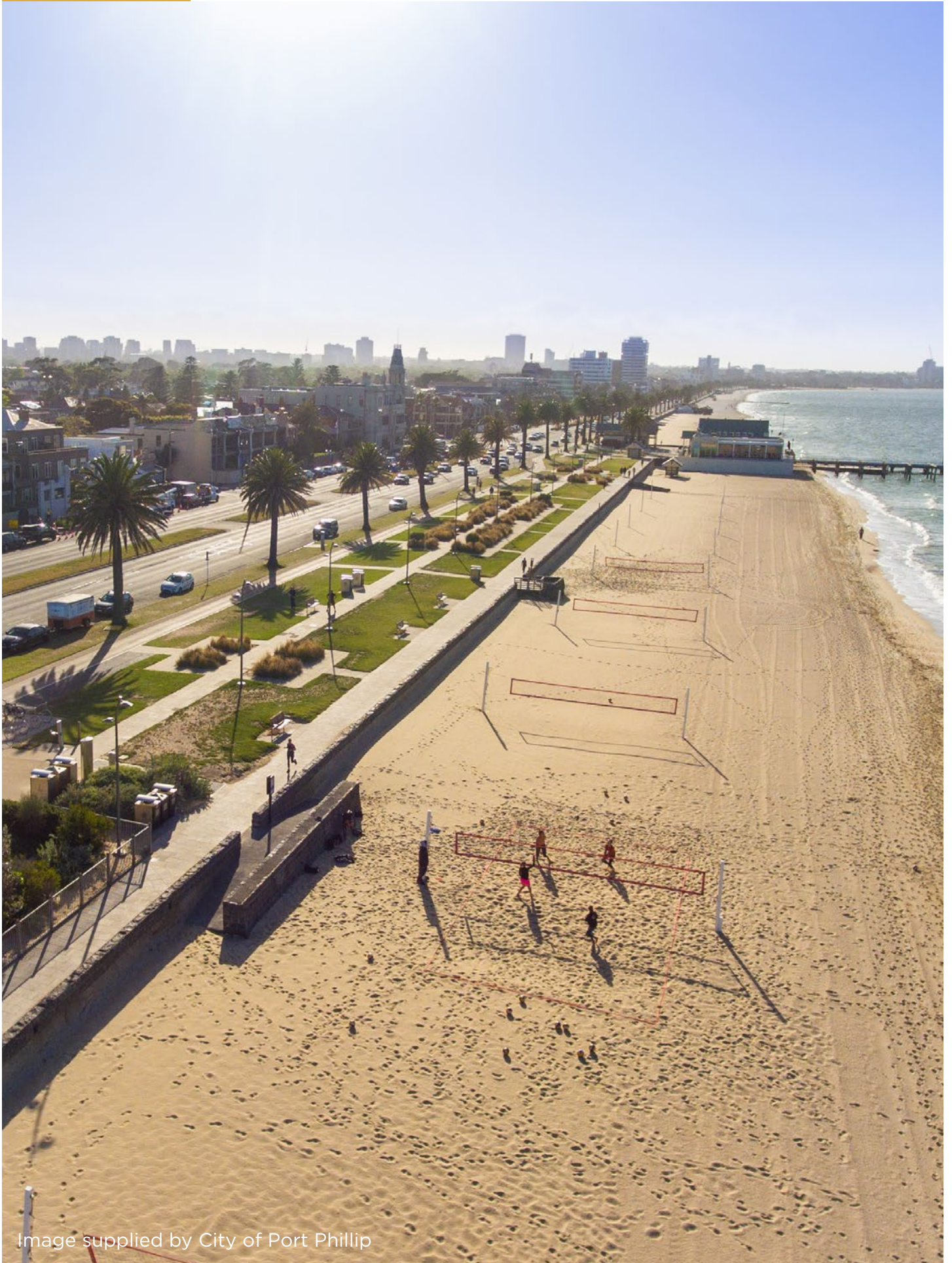


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SECCCA MEETINGS LIST

- Mr James Newbury MP - Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Shadow Minister for Bay Protection, Shadow Special Minister of State, Shadow Minister for Equality, Local Member for Brighton
- Mr Paul Edbrooke MP - Parliamentary Secretary for Police, Emergency Services and Bushfire recovery, Member for Frankston
- Ms Briony Hutton - Liberal Candidate for Hastings
- Mr Tim Richardson MP - Parliamentary Secretary for Schools, Member for Mordialloc
- **Department of Environment Land Water and Planning**
 - Mr Mark Rodrigues - Executive Director, Climate Change at Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Additionally:
 - Carolyn Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Environment and Climate Change, DELWP
 - Clare Penrose, Director, Climate Change Policy, DELWP
 - Julie Richmond, Director - Climate Change Policy, Adaptation and Risk, DELWP
 - Helen Sofele, Manager, Integration and Coordination, Energy, DELWP
 - Kirrily Noonan, Director, Renewable Energy Development
 - Sally Moxham, Director, Energy Smart, Low Emissions Buildings
 - Katie Brown, Director, Energy Strategy.
- **Department of Transport:**
 - Paul Younis - Secretary, Department of Transport
 - Mr Alex Green - Executive Director, Southern Metro Region Roads, Dep of Transport
 - Kieran L Hurley (emissions reduction in DOT)

- Cr David Clark - MAV President Pyrenees Shire Council
- Mr Brad Battin MP - Member for Gembrook Shadow Minister for Police, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Shadow Minister for Community Safety and Victim Support, Shadow Minister for Corrections
- Mr Nick Staikos MP - Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, Local Member for Bentleigh, Australian Labor Party
- Mr Chris Brayne MP - Member for Nepean Member of the ALP (CHECK)
- The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP - Member for Dandenong, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, ALP
- The Hon Luke Donnellan MP - Member for Narre Warren North, ALP
- Mr Gary Maas MP - Member for Narre Warren South, ALP
- Ms Pauline Richards MP - Member for Cranbourne, ALP
- Mr Lee Tarlamis MP - Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan
- The office of the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP - Minister for Energy, Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Minister for Solar Homes

CANBERRA DELEGATION

- The Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP - Attorney-General Cabinet Secretary Member for Isaacs
- Ms Zoe Daniel MP - Member for Goldstein
- The office of the Hon Catherine King MP's Office - Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Member for Ballarat
- The office of the Hon Jenny McAllister's Office - Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Senator for NSW
- The office of the Hon Murray Watt's Office - Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Minister for Emergency Management, Senator for QLD.



Image supplied by City of Port Phillip

