



# **CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE**

*Rich in history and opportunity*

"Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future"



## **SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN 2012-2020**

## Acknowledgements

This Sustainability Plan was created by a committee of unpaid interested citizens who gave of their time, passion and commitment with the support of a number of professionals brought in to provide professional expertise. The Central Goldfields Shire Council formally recognises this effort and records its sincere thanks.

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## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CASBE	Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment
CEFC	Clean Energy Finance Corporation
CGSC	Central Goldfields Shire Council
CHW	Central Highlands Water
CoGB	City of Greater Bendigo
CVGA	Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance
DPI	Department of Primary Industry
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Design
FG	Friends Groups
FSN	Food Security Network
GBCA	Green Building Council of Australia
GBN	Goldfields Business Network
HCI	Healthier Communities Network
LCG	McCallum Creek & Timor West Landcare Group
LW	Land for Wildlife
LV	Land For Wildlife
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
MEC	Maryborough Education Centre
NCCMA	North Central Catchment Management Authority
NR	Neighbourhood Renewal
PCP	Primary Care Partnership
PV	Parks Victoria
SRA	Sustainable Regional Australia
VECCI	Victorian Employers Chamber of commerce and Industry
VLGA	Victorian Local Government Association

# 1. Introduction

The Central Goldfields Shire Environmental Sustainability Community Action Plan 2012-2020 provides a framework for sustainability planning, decision-making and action, to achieve improved environmental sustainability for the Central Goldfields Shire council and community.

Central Goldfields Shire Council has committed resources and adopted policy to make an equitable contribution to global sustainability and to protect and enhance the quality of the environmental and the quality of life of residents in this geographic region into the foreseeable future. As a democratically elected institution dedicated to the betterment of local communities, current and future generations are considered to be the source of Council's legitimacy in playing a role in supporting the community to improve environmental outcomes in the shire.

Unlike many Council-owned environmental sustainability plans which are focussed primarily on the direct scope of action of Council's operations, this plan is intended to support the community to take responsibility for the environmental outcomes in the shire. Council will fulfil on plans and projects that minimise Council's footprint and facilitate increased environmental awareness in the community in the most cost-effective manner possible, but through this plan and the steering and working groups associated with it, it will also play a coordination and facilitation role in supporting, empowering, and where required resourcing, community and stakeholder led actions.

Through the process of developing and implementing this plan, Central Goldfields Shire Council is taking a leading role in developing a Collective Impact approach to addressing long-term sustainability issues through a system and sectoral approach, and supporting the local communities in the shire to become the stewards of the environment we all share.

# 2. Profile of Our Shire

Central Goldfields Shire is located in central Victoria and comprises 1,550 square kilometres. It is one of Victoria's smaller rural shires with an estimated residential population of just over 13,000 people. The ABS 2006 census stated that there were 5,815 private dwellings within the Central Goldfields Shire.

The Shire is located within one hour's drive from the main provincial centres of Ballarat and Bendigo and only 2 hours from Melbourne. It is part of the Goldfields Tourist Region, with many visitors coming to see the historic buildings and townships that date back to the 1850's when the region supported a prosperous gold mining industry.

Maryborough is the Shire's major business centre with a population of around 8,000 people. It is located near the centre of the Shire. Other towns in the Shire include Bealiba, Carisbrook, Daisy Hill, Dunolly, Majorca, Talbot, Timor and the rural districts surrounding these centres.

Towns in the north of the shire include:

- Dunolly (~1000 population);
- Bealiba (~120);
- Moliagul (~30);

Townships in the central area of the shire include:

- Carisbrook (~700);
- Bowenvale/Timor (~100);
- Majorca (~50);

The main township in the southern part of the shire is:

- Talbot (~300).

## Economy and Demographics\*

Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) is pro-active in ensuring that every opportunity for success in the Shire is embraced.

Recent projects led by Council include the Maryborough Urban Prospects project. This project ensured the best possible use of 4 former school sites, which otherwise could have been left to languish unused for years. Included in this project was the re-housing of the Shire administration function, the creation of the Station Domain precinct, incorporating a playground for children and a Community Hub – both well utilised by the Community - development of two retirement villages, and, a new housing estate. Each of these projects has ensured the retention and use of wonderful heritage buildings, whilst making the most of the surrounds.

Council has been instrumental in progressing industry in the Shire. Council was very much involved in facilitating the move to Maryborough of food manufacturer, TrueFoods™ – which currently employs 180 staff with further growth imminent.

The workforce in the shire is largely focussed on the retail, manufacturing, health and education sectors as well as agriculture. The population is generally older in the rural areas and around the shire's major towns.

At present, Council is developing an industrial subdivision just outside Maryborough at Flagstaff, and has already secured six tenants for the site. Council has also supported the development of a 6MW municipal waste gasification plant on the highway between Carisbrook and Maryborough.

The retail sector in Maryborough is also undergoing resurgence – Aldi, MKM Shopping complex incorporating Coles and Kmart, and McDonalds have each established a presence in the town.

Another win for Council is its successful bid for funding of the innovative, place-based Go Goldfields initiative. This initiative is an alliance of organisations within the Shire with a human service focus, aimed at providing the best service possible to families and service users and to develop well planned responses to the needs of vulnerable families in the Central Goldfields area.

In a broader sense, CGSC is very active in ensuring that the Shire is on the radar as far as the State and Region are concerned playing a leading role in the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance and it's regional federal applications for funding for bulk street-light upgrades and for a large low income energy efficiency programs.

Council lobbied long and hard for the return of passenger rail services to the Shire, and was rewarded with services returning to Maryborough in July 2010. To enhance this service, work is currently underway to upgrade the Talbot Station with a view to it being operational in 2013.

Council is also an active partner in the development and implementation of both the Southern Loddon and Central Highlands Regional Strategic Plans, as well as; the Local Government Financial Sustainability Project (Whelan Report); as lead Council for the First National Heritage Region Project, and; is represented by the CEO on the Regional Development Australia Committee and the Victorian Local Government Health and Wellbeing Planning Advisory Group. Council has also been instrumental in securing a commitment from VicRoads to rename the Ballarat-Maryborough and Bendigo Maryborough Roads, 'Goldfields Highway'.

Council's response to the floods of September 2010 and January 2011 was immediate and effective. Recovery efforts in Carisbrook (the community most directly affected) were recognised through the award of the Resilient Australia Awards at both the state and the national level.

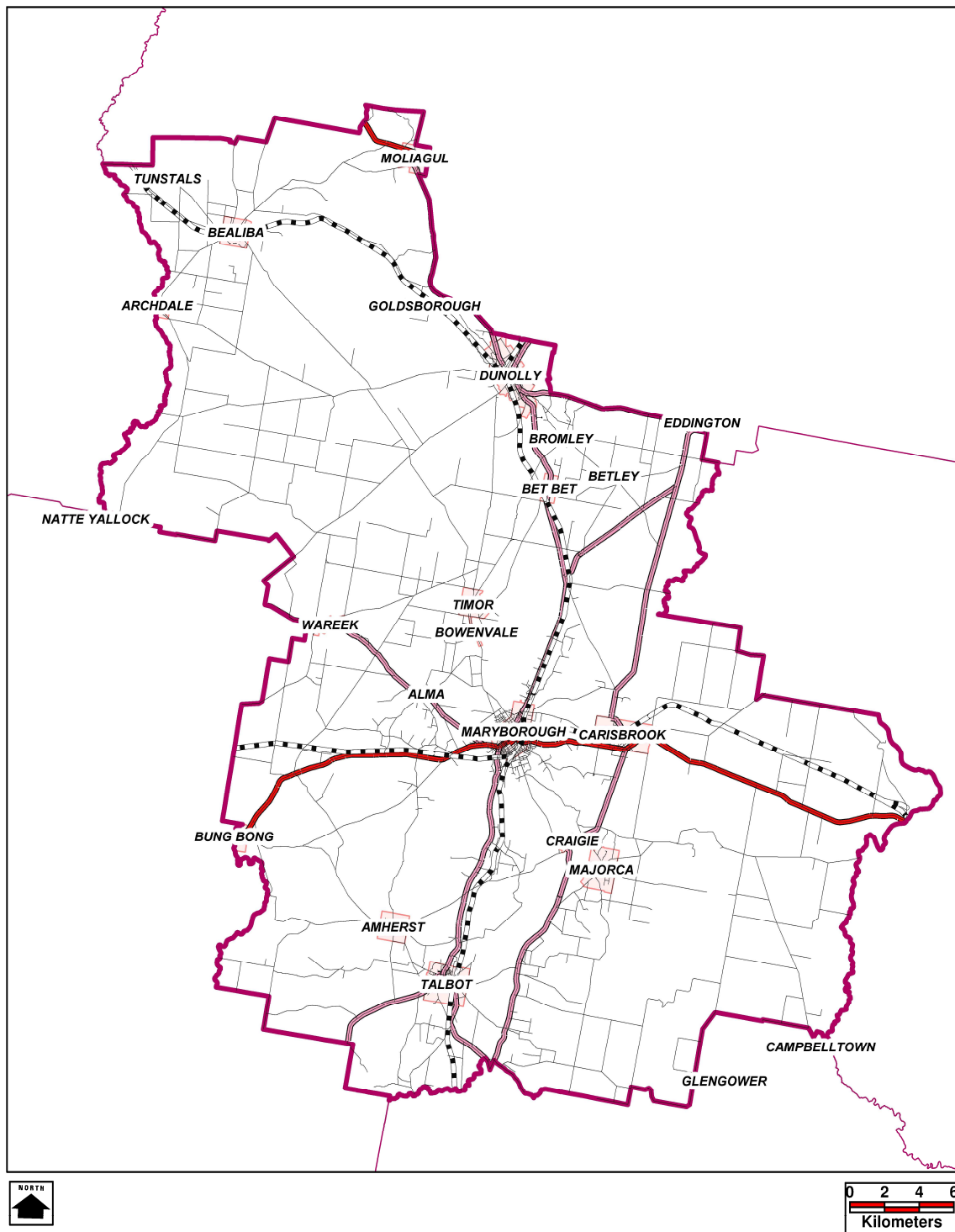
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\* 2010 ABS Data

<b>Snapshot of Central Goldfields Shire</b>	
City Area	1534 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	12 896
Current Population Growth Rate	0.5% p.a.
Projections	20,000 by 2025 ( Population Growth Strategy adopted 2011)
Population Aged 65 and over	12.7%
Population Aged 14 and under	17.1%
Climate	Mean minimum temperature 17.3 <sup>0</sup> C Mean maximum temperature 24.8 <sup>0</sup> C
Rainfall	Total annual rainfall 580mm
Labour Force	4116 within Shire
Unemployment Rate	10.4%
Businesses	≥600
Median Household Income weekly	\$685 (compared with \$1234 in Australia)
Shire's SEIFA score of disadvantage	79 <sup>th</sup> out of 79 in Victoria



## Map of the Shire



## Central Goldfields Shire

### 3. Drivers for Environmental Sustainability

The move towards environmental sustainability in Central Goldfields Shire is based on thirteen identified drivers, each of which exists in response to observed or predicted changes in our environment (such as loss of biodiversity, and climate change):

1. regulatory imperatives including international agreements, legislation and reporting requirements;
2. government incentives that support environmental sustainability initiatives;
3. a quadruple bottom line approach which adds cultural sustainability (including governance) to the social equity, financial prosperity and environmental sustainability goals;
4. increased recognition of environmental reputation as an attractor for immigration and of high value-add businesses and industry;
5. anticipated rapid population growth;
6. concerns about the impact of climate-change driven issues on the local community including events such as increased incidence of drought, flood and fire; infrastructure, soil and eco-system degradation; non-local energy and food availability and other economic and environmental shocks;
7. an interest in increased efficiency and improvement of resource management processes in the shire (i.e. reducing waste to increase productivity);
8. rapidly escalating costs of fuel, water, energy and waste disposal;
9. service delivery that better manages risks and recognises the contribution of effective environmental management to ensure the ongoing provision of services;
10. community expectations that local government will be a leader in environmental sustainability and actively aim to reduce the environmental impacts of people in the shire;
11. increasing consumer demand for sustainable products and services such as use of materials from sustainable sources and use of recycled and recyclable materials;
12. financial and risk mitigation incentives to reduce future costs to Council and the community through exposure to environmental hazards and vulnerability to increasing prices, and;
13. a growing appreciation of Council's ethical responsibility to protect and enhance our local environment and make an equitable contribution to global environmental sustainability.

#### 3.1 Our Mission & Vision

Central Goldfields Shire Council's mission is to provide services and facilities that promote a quality lifestyle now and for future generations and, in keeping with the vision held by Council and the community, create a shire:

- where the environment is protected and enhanced;
- where the scenic, ecological, recreational and commercial values are promoted and protected;
- with a prosperous economy and a supportive attitude to balanced economic growth, managed in a way to enhance quality of life and satisfy the employment and environmental aims of the community;
- that recognises, encourages and develops its diverse cultural life and talents and protects and promotes its heritage;
- that encourages community spirit, promotes a fulfilling lifestyle, enhances health and social well being, encourages lifestyle choices and has opportunities to encourage participation in sport, recreation, and programs to increase community responsibility in management for sustainable outcomes, and;
- that will promote equal access to all services and facilities and enable all citizens to contribute to and participate in the shire's economic and social development.

## 3.2 Our Principles

Council has established the following principles for quadruple bottom line sustainability:

- provide integrated environmental management, strategic planning, services and waste management to enhance and sustain the natural, social, cultural and built environment and contribute to an equitable regional and global ecological footprint;
- advocate for and develop opportunities that will ensure all residents have equal opportunity to participate in the economic and social life of the community;
- maintain and develop a sustainable road and drainage network and facilitate continual improvement of the shire's transport network; and
- the shire's economy prospers with managed growth that enhances the health and quality of life of the community and it's members, while balancing employment and environmental goals.

## 3.3 Outcomes and Strategies for Quadruple Bottom Line Sustainability

Central Goldfields Shire Council seeks to succinctly set out strategic directions, objectives, actions, community/organisational indicators and departmental responsibility for delivery of environmental sustainability outcomes that contribute to a shire;

- that is responsive to its environment;
- that makes an equitable contribution to global sustainability;
- that is well designed, adaptable and liveable;
- that is well serviced and equitable;
- that encourages progress and prosperity;
- that is responsive to the wellbeing needs of its residents, and;
- that practices participatory democracy and is well governed.

### 3.4 Environmental Sustainability Policy

#### *Our Commitment*

We are committed to making Central Goldfields a sustainable shire with healthy ecosystems and a community that is prepared for, and resilient in the face of, environmental threats. We will achieve this by continually improving our services and our environmental performance, engaging with the community in the growing consciousness about sustainability issues, implementation and support of community and emergency planning processes, acting as the conduit for funding for environmental and sustainability-related programs that support the improvement of council and community services, and, by sharing our responsibility for environmental management with all who work for us and with us.

#### *Our Goal*

Our goal is to sustain an environment that is diverse and inspiring, minimally polluted, and supportive of the shire's economic and social needs. We aim to contribute equitably to local and global environmental sustainability.

#### *Our Plan*

##### **We aim to achieve this by:**

- Implementing actions that support ecologically sustainable development in current and future economic activity;
- Consciously managing the environmental impacts of anticipated population growth;
- Protecting and enhancing the natural ecosystems of the shire, supporting the restoration of degraded habitats, and preventing further degradation and loss of biodiversity;
- Minimising the use of natural resources, especially through reducing waste and limiting pollution;
- Raising environmental sustainability awareness and responsibility in our community;
- Actively supporting and empowering local community's to take responsibility for environmental outcomes, especially by working in partnership arrangements with appropriate community-based groups;
- Continually assessing and reducing the shire's exposure to risks from the environment including those from natural disasters, environmental health and climate change related impacts;
- Continually assessing environmental and sustainability risks across the organisation, implementing measures to avoid and control these risks, and using our management systems to support continual improvement in environmental sustainability performance;
- Appropriate to council's resource-base, reporting on environmental performance internally and externally, and continually reviewing and improving our environmental sustainability strategy and operations in consultation with others;
- Complying with all applicable environmental regulations, laws and other requirements to which Council subscribes;
- Practicing due diligence by providing appropriate awareness and training for all staff relevant to their environmental sustainability responsibilities, and;
- Communicating and making available our environmental sustainability policy to staff, contractors and the community.

Barry Rinaldi

Mayor

Mark W. Johnston

Chief Executive Officer

## 4 The Need for an Environmental Sustainability Community Action Plan

The Central Goldfields Shire Council recognises the profound relationship between the natural environment and the community's council has been formed to serve.

Council recognises that the health of the natural environment underpins the long-term health and well-being of the community and that local economic development is inextricably linked with the effective ongoing management of natural resources in the shire and, through human and natural linkages, environmental management practices across the state, the country and eventually around the globe.

On this basis, council is committed to playing its part in protecting and enhancing the well-springs of our community's health, wealth and well-being.

Important as it is that council satisfies its obligations towards current and future generations under the banner of 'environmental sustainability', it can be extremely difficult for councils and other stakeholders in the community to know how to engage with those obligations, where legal and/or ethical responsibility begins and ends, and indeed, where to start! As a 'sustainability' lens can be applied to any and all human activities (and indeed many non-human ones as well), identifying and directing scarce local government resources towards high-value and high-priority activities can be extremely challenging. This is compounded by the very abundance of non-council resources available in the community and across sectoral and geographic boundaries which makes it hard to pin-down precisely who will do what, when, how and with whose resources.

Integration of service and project delivery is the key to influencing the direction of a community towards better long-term sustainability outcomes. Unless there is a deliberate, well-structured, open-minded and inclusive process to identify, calibrate and track efforts to increase sustainability outcomes in a locality, success in hence the very social and economic viability of the community we exist to serve.

Local government, by its nature as an independent authority accountable for the public interest, is well placed to play this integration and aggregation role in a local community.

For a local-government-based sustainability plan to achieve long-term outcomes across a broad front in the community as-well-as councils own operations, it must have very strong engagement with the community from the initiation and development phase through the deployment, delivery tracking and accounting for success or failure. This requires a level of courage on the part of the local government authority because it means being willing to be more directly accountable to local community representatives than is commonly the case. In return, council can expect to receive the depth of engagement and participation required for the achievement of long-term sustainability outcomes, and not simply in-house alternations to process or behaviour.

### 4.1 Benefits to Council

The key benefits of developing this action plan from the perspective of the Central Goldfields Shire Council include:

- consolidating actions to achieve the organisation's environmental sustainability objectives in a single document;
- enhancing Council's capacity to integrate environmental sustainability projects and outcomes across the shire, including supporting projects and programs that are not specifically run or administered by Council;
- providing a centrally managed process for the local community to identify, instigate and coordinate environmentally positive projects in collaboration with other stakeholders including governments, environmental statutory bodies, local and regional businesses and non-government agencies;
- enabling tracking of prioritised outputs, facilitating review and revision of Council's sustainability progress, especially in relation to Council Plans ;
- mainstreaming environmental sustainability across the organisation;
- providing a location where actions generated by Council units can be documented and tracked, and;
- informing annual reporting.

## 5 Scope and Implementation

The seven priority areas of environmental sustainability for action addressed in this plan are<sup>†</sup>:

- Energy Security
- Transport
- Human Water Use
- Food Quality and Security
- Built Environment and Land Use
- Waste Management
- Ecosystem Enhancement

This plan is intended as a tool to organise, integrate, catalyse and measure the effectiveness of efforts across the shire to achieve positive long-term sustainability outcomes.

It is important to note that though this plan is owned and facilitated by Council, and it fulfils on the traditional function of a council plan to direct and guide the delivery of council operations, it is also expected to fulfil on a number of other functions and intentions that go beyond the traditional role of a council plan.

### 5.1 Key Principals of Implementation

Key principals that must underpin implementation of this plan are as follows:

- **Cross-sectoral engagement.** Maintaining a sectoral approach to sustainability issues is critical and wherever possible, sectoral rather than isolated measurement mechanisms and metrics should be adopted to facilitate this approach;
- **A living document.** The plan is intended to be adaptable and evolve according to changing circumstances and attitudes in the community and in council;
- **A resource for ongoing community engagement.** This plan should provide council and other agencies with a powerful communication. It should also provide council and other stakeholders with a clear direction and mechanism for identifying and funding projects;
- **Facilitate the community's willingness to be responsible for their own environmental future.** The plan must remain a community-owned and directed document facilitated by council as a natural, public-interest aggregator;
- **A council plan.** In addition to the plan's role in engaging larger community and stakeholders, it must also operate as a traditional council plan and direct the efforts of internal staff to improving councils' performance as part of the larger community engagement with these issues.

Through the process of developing this plan through 2012, a number of projects have been successfully proposed, developed and delivered by community groups and stakeholders external to council with council support. In conjunction with the more traditional implementation mechanisms within council operations, this model of empowering and supporting community and stakeholder's leadership in the development and implementation of sustainability-related projects represents an ideal implementation mechanism.

This plan and its governance arrangements have been deliberately developed in such a way as to build on this model of spontaneous and collaborative project development and delivery. Responsibility for many of the action items in the 7 categories outlined above rests with agents external to council and should require only in-kind and/or in principal support from council to be effectively delivered. It is essential that the members of the steering committee, working groups and others associated with the delivery of this plan are active in promoting this model project implementation throughout the life of this plan.

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<sup>†</sup> These priority areas are not in order of importance

## 5.2 Targets

The targets represent the key mechanism for ensuring that the whole plan is integrated. The Sustainability Plan Targets represent outcomes that would fulfil on the mission and vision that underpins this plan (section 3.1). The targets in each category represent outcomes that would fulfil on the Sustainability Plan Targets. Each action items can be seen to fulfil on one or more category targets, thus ensuring that all actions can be calibrated to the larger goals and are not seen in isolation one from the other.

In many cases the targets are representative mechanisms for measuring progress against agreed goals and have not been finalised in clear metrics and/or availability of appropriate data. This is an extraordinarily fraught area and identifying and defining appropriate sustainability reporting mechanisms and metrics from the perspective of council and community actions must be a key function of the steering committee and the working groups.

It must also be noted that many of the numeric measurements embedded in the targets have not been completed at this stage in the plan development process. This is a deliberate omission as it is essential that these targets achieve community and especially council acceptance before they are instituted as accountability measures for council staff and others. As such, confirming the numeric measures and the mechanisms that the working groups and steering committee are comfortable with will be the first and probably most consistent function of these groups throughout the life of the plan.

All targets are for the 8 year period 2012-2020. A number of them were completed during the development of the plan itself.

## 5.3 Governance

The process outlined above provides council with an opportunity to continue to expanding community engagement in these issues in a controlled and directed fashion while integrating the community's efforts into a larger, Council owned, planning process. It is intended to provide council with an opportunity to build a deep and broad engagement with sustainability issues and effectively mobilise under-utilised resources in the community by providing a clear and template and plan for community and stakeholder engagement in issues that affect us all.

This Action Plan has been included as an input into the CGSC Business Planning process. Where the CGSC has been identified in the plan as the responsible agency, council will be responsible for including the required work into the work plan for that unit.

Governance for the plan should be divided into two levels, a steering committee meeting three times per year and tasked with ensuring that the larger, strategic goals of the plan are maintained and that there is high-level buy-in in the council and the community, and seven working groups responsible for the ongoing development and delivery of the action items in each priority category of the plan.

The working groups should be given substantial leeway in their operational processes and be expected to evolve independently of each other as the plan evolves and is adapted over the eight years of its operation. Council must be willing to provide default secretarial services to these groups in the absence of an alternative organisation providing these services.

### 5.3.1 Governance Structure

The two levels of governance are:

1. A steering committee to meet three times per year constituting:
  - a. senior members of council staff (including the mayor and the ceo)
  - b. members of the ESSC plan development committee (disbanded)
  - c. other local stakeholders (including potentially Water and waste authorities, local health and other service delivery, community and sports groups, s86 committees etc.)
2. Sustainability working groups for each action item category (eg. water, ecosystem enhancement etc.) constituting:
  - a. members of council staff
  - b. members of the ESSC plan development committee (disbanded)
  - c. other local stakeholders (including potentially Water and waste authorities, local health and other service delivery, community and sports groups, s86 committees etc.)

## 5.4 Monitoring, Reporting and Review

This Action Plan contains actions items which are to be achieved over the period 2012 to 2020. It:

- consolidates a sustainability perspective across the organisation and the shire;
- enhances the capacity for a future focussed, risk management approach to Council planning;
- provides a central resource to integrate planning and implementation across Council, the community and associated agencies;
- facilitates efficient annual planning and quantification of performance as well as providing a centralised locale for monitoring, tracking and reviewing projects and progress towards targets being pursued by non-Council actors in the shire;
- has been developed as a 'live' document to provide Council with a means of tracking delivery of priority actions and quantifying, in consistent units, the contribution made by actions in the larger community towards associated targets;
- enables new actions to be inserted as required or during scheduled reviews.

Performance against this plan will be reported annually by the Sustainability plan steering committee in Council's annual report. The plan will be reviewed annually on the basis of reports from the 7 action groups and updated as required.



## 6 The Action Plan

A description of the content under headings used in the Action Plan follows:

**Ref.** - This is the designator for that action. F1 means that it is the first 'Food' action. F2 is the second 'Food' action, Was1 is the first Waste action item etc.

**Action Type** - These are the things the plan proposes be done to achieve the targets identified for that action item. There are 3 kinds of actions:

- a. Projects – these are items with short-to-medium time frames that and a defined end.
- b. Management - these are items with long or ongoing timeframes for which there is no discernable condition of final satisfaction. These are usually items for which council is responsible.
- c. Advocacy - those issues for which a rule change is required that for which there is no authority within the local government area of Central Goldfields (eg. changing packaging laws).

**Target** - This is the number that ties this action back to the specific target (or targets) it is intended to help accomplish. One project, management or advocacy item can legitimately fulfil on multiple targets.

**Priority** – This represents the urgency and the important of the action item on a numeric scale:

- High Importance and Urgent .....1
- High Importance but Not Urgent .....2
- Low Importance and Urgent .....3
- Low Importance but Not Urgent .....4

**Name** - What the action item is called.

**Responsible Agency** – The enterprise that is accountable for this action item. This does not have to be the Council, though if not the lead agency, Council will be a stakeholder in the process.

**Stakeholders** - Groups who are or should be associated with the project either because it fulfils on their mandate and/or strategies, council feels they have an important role to play, the action item will impact them in some way and/or they represent other individuals or groups who could forward or block the action item.

**Completion Date** - Date the action item should be completed (note that most managerial and some advocacy items may not have a completion date).

**Council Document** – These are the plans, strategies, policies etc. that already exists and show council support for this action item.

## 6.1 Targets

### 6.1.1 Overall Sustainability Plan Targets by 2020

The fulfilment of these high-level goals would satisfy the intention of the Sustainability Plan<sup>‡</sup>.

**6.1.1.1 10% reduction in the per capita eco-footprint in the shire**

**6.1.1.2 20% increase in the community climate-change resilience score**

#### **Energy Security (ES) ..... p.19**

**6.2.1 % reduction in community GHG emissions on 2012 baseline**

**6.2.2 % reduction in CGSC operational GHG emissions on 2012 baseline<sup>§</sup>**

**6.2.3 % increase in renewable energy generation on 2012 baseline<sup>\*\*</sup>**

**6.2.4 ? increase in energy security score**

#### **Human Water Use (W) ..... p.23**

**6.3.1 % decrease in per capita potable water use**

**6.3.2 % decrease in industrial water use per dollar generated<sup>††</sup>**

**6.3.3 % increase in recycling of potable water per capita**

**6.3.4 % increase in the capture and re-use of urban storm water**

**6.3.5 % decrease in annual ground water extraction**

**6.3.6 % increase in water quality**

#### **Waste Management (Was) ..... p.25**

**6.4.1 % of the shire's municipal waste recycled and reused**

**6.4.2 % decrease in generation of putrescible and non-putrescible waste in the shire (2012 baseline)**

**6.4.3 % of local green waste recycled and/or used in a productive manner**

**6.4.4 % of the shire's commercial and industrial waste recycled and reused (2012 baseline)**

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<sup>‡</sup> There are no designated measurement mechanisms for these goals. Ascertaining these would be a key function of the Environment Plan steering committee.

<sup>§</sup> Calculations based figures provided by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research indicate that to achieve effective zero carbon emissions by 2030 would require cutting emissions by the following: 16% p.a. by 2015, 14% p.a. by 2020 and 12% p.a. to 2030. <http://www.slideshare.net/DFID/professor-kevin-anderson-climate-change-going-beyond-dangerous>

<sup>\*\*</sup> An alternative measurement could be: "Increase in renewable energy generation by 'x' MW's p.a."

<sup>††</sup> An alternative measurement could be: "Decrease in industrial water use by 'x' ML's p.a."

<b>Food Quality and Security (F)</b> .....	p.29
6.5.1 Lower local food insecurity from 10.4% to the general Victorian level of 6% <sup>††</sup>	
6.5.2 % Increase in production, distribution and consumption of food with >100 food kilometers	
6.5.3 % Increase in equitable availability of healthy food	
6.5.4 % decrease in obesity in the shire, including % decrease in obesity in people under 18	
<b>Transport (Tr)</b> .....	p.35
6.6.1 % increase in public transport journeys in the shire	
6.6.2 % increase in local public transport systems that can be directly responsive to community requirements	
6.6.3 % increase in the length of walking and cycling tracks	
6.6.4 % reduction in heavy traffic in residential area	
6.6.5 % increase in train patronage	
<b>Ecosystem Enhancement (EE)</b> .....	p.36
6.7.1 Native vegetation: Increase of 'x' in the ratio of low to high value lands	
6.7.2 Increase in soil health: % decrease in land-area susceptibility to water erosion; % increase in organic content	
6.7.3 % increase in the health of roadside vegetation	
6.7.4 % increase in stream and wetland condition	
<b>Built Environment and Land Use (LU)</b> .....	p.39
6.8.1 % of new developments in the shire infill not greenfield sites	
6.8.2 % of new developments above current state Environmental Sustainable Development standards (inc. the BCA 6 star thermal standard)	
6.8.3 100% of CGSC's "All Area Management Plans" include integrated WSUD, ESD and sustainability criteria	
6.8.4 % increase in the building sector professionals registered in the shire are trained in sustainable building practices (e.g. registered builders, plumbers, electricians, draughts-people and architects)	
6.8.5 % increase in diversity of farm enterprises (inc. crop diversity, carbon farming and other primary production businesses)	

**Nb.** These targets have been developed as indicators of measurement for the Action Items. Numeric targets are expected to be decided upon by the relevant working groups in collaboration with the Sustainability Plan steering committee (see

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<sup>††</sup> Based on the 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Subsequent surveys will be released in 2014 and 2018.

## 6.2 Energy Security

### Vision

**The shire produces no Greenhouse Gas emissions through electricity generation or consumption and has minimised or offset all greenhouse gas emissions from other energy sources.**

**If required, the shire could be 100% self-sufficient in terms of energy generation at the flick of a switch.**

### Outcomes 2020

- The shire's total electricity consumption has fallen substantially and a local industry and culture has developed around energy efficiency and low-energy intensity production.
- The shire's local renewable energy generation has increased dramatically and a local industry has developed predicted on increasing that capacity further. There are substantial investments in the pipeline.
- The shire has started implementing localised distributed energy grids. The knowledge and experience required to rapidly expand those grids is in place if and when state and government policy settings allow.

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Work with local stakeholders to increase energy efficiency in the residential, commercial sectors
- Support the development of green energy generation capacity in the shire, including residential solar and other energy sources, as well as grid-connected and/or behind-the-meter large and medium-scale renewable energy generation (including co and tri-generation plants)
- Increase and facilitate a reduction in greenhouse emissions and the uptake of renewable energy sources, GreenPower and best practice in energy efficiency
- Advocate through local, state and federal forums for a distributed energy network and support for renewable energy generation.
- Support regional and local integration of energy generation and distribution wherever possible

### Targets by 2020

- 6.2.1 % reduction in community GHG emissions on 2012 baseline
- 6.2.2 % reduction in CGSC operational GHG emissions on 2012 baseline
- 6.2.3 % increase in renewable energy generation on 2012 baseline
- 6.2.4 ? increase in energy security score

### Key Data Sources

- Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development

- Cities for Climate Protection
- Community Indicators Victoria (6.2.1, 2)
- Renewable Energy Certificates (6.2.3)

## Energy Security Actions List

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
ES1	Management	6.2.2	2	Council reports annually on operational energy use and GHG emissions by sector (eg. buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights, waste).	CGSC	CVGA, SV, MAV, Greenhouse Alliances Network, National Centre for Sustainability	1 <sup>st</sup> report 2013	
ES2	Management	6.2.1	2	Council reports annually on community energy use and GHG emissions by sector (eg. buildings, vehicle fleet, streetlights, waste).	CGSC	CVGA, SV, MAV, Greenhouse Alliances Network, National Centre for Sustainability	1 <sup>st</sup> report 2014	
ES3	Project	6.2.2 6.2.4	1	Council implements energy efficiency upgrades to Council building stock (potentially including external funding sources) equivalent to 1 MW p.a.	CGSC	Clean Energy Finance Corporation	2017	
ES4	Project	6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.4	1	Council joins a regional program to upgrade street lighting to be more energy efficient.	CGSC	CVGA, CoGB, Powercor	2017	
ES5	Project	6.2.4	2	Council develops an oil-vulnerability adaptation plan for Council operations.	CGSC	MAV	2014	
ES6	Project	6.2.4	2	Council develops an oil-vulnerability adaptation plan for the shire.	CGSC	GSG	2015	
ES6	Management	6.2.1 6.2.4	3	Council initiates partnerships through the Energy Breakthrough event to expand its focus to include renewable energy.	CGSC	GSG	2014	
ES8	Project	6.2.3 6.2.4	2	The shire achieves the equivalent to 20 MW of locally generated, stand-alone renewable energy.	CGSC partnerships	Renewable Energy Park Australia, Citilum, MSG	2020	
ES9	Project	6.2.1 6.2.3 6.2.4	1	Uptake of residential solar increases by 1000%. This could be facilitated by solar mapping and solar bulk-buy projects to be led by council or other appropriate organisations.	CGSC partnerships	ReEmerge, GSG, CVGA	2020	
ES11	Management	6.2.1 6.2.4	2	Council facilitates uptake of local business energy security projects equivalent to 1MW p.a. (equivalent mix of renewable energy generation, energy offsetting and energy efficiency).	CGSC partnerships	CGBN, CEFC, GSG	2020	

ES12	Project	6.2.1 6.2.4	1	Council facilitates the equivalent to 2NW (Negawatt) of residential energy efficiencies (including energy efficiency and bulk-buy programs such as solar hotwater/heat pumps).	CGSC partnerships	CEFC, MSG, SRA, CVGA	2020	
ES14	Management	6.2.1 6.2.4	2	Council develops an energy efficiency standard to apply to future subdivision approvals.	CGSC	MAV, Local Developers	2013	
ES15	Advocacy	All	2	Council advocates for a distributed energy network through changes to stage government policy settings.	CGSC	GSG, Clean Energy Council, Energy Efficiency Council, MAV	2020	

## 6.3 Human Water Use

### Vision

**The community extracts less water for all purposes than comes into the shire.**

**Water is a highly valued and carefully managed resource within the community. Efforts are continually being made to minimise usage, capture, reuse and recycle water.**

### Outcomes 2020

- Shire-wide and, where required, regional water resources are well mapped and understood
- Shire water resources are managed like a budgeted community-good for the long-term benefit of the region

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Local water resources have been comprehensively mapped for reserves, inflows and outflows. Local extraction, consumption and replenishment processes are being managed responsibly as a shire-wide water budget
- The shire is prepared for the next big drought
- Commercial, residential and waste/rain water is carefully husbanded and utilised effectively with a view to long-term water security

### Targets by 2020

- 6.3.1 % decrease in per capita potable water use
- 6.3.2 % decrease in industrial water use per dollar generated
- 6.3.3 % increase in recycling of potable water per capita
- 6.3.4 % increase in the capture and re-use of urban storm water
- 5.3.5 % decrease in annual ground water extraction
- 5.3.6 % increase in water quality

### Key data sources

- Central Highlands Water and Goulburn Murray Water<sup>§§</sup> (all)
- Local Surveys (6.3.1, 3)
- ABS data (6.3.2)

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<sup>§§</sup> The next consultation and review between CHW and CGSC of all aspects of water supply in the shire is 2017



## Human Water Use Action items

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
1	Advocacy	6.3.1 6.3.3	4	Permanent Water restrictions implemented by the Victorian government.	Victorian government	CHW, CGSC	2014	
W2	Management	6.3.5	4	Local reservoir water-use policy revised by the Victorian government and the CHW: Evansford, Talbot, & Tullaroop.	CHW	Victorian Government, GMW, CGSC	2016	
W3	Management	6.3.2	4	Obligatory water management plans implemented for large users.	CGSC	CHW, Large water users	2015	
W4	Advocacy	All (except 6.3.6)	2	Water pricing based on usage implemented by CHW (either independently or through Victorian government legislation).	CHW	MAV, CGSG, CGSC	2018	
W5	Project	All	1	Shire-wide sustainable water plan developed and implemented.	CGSC	CHW, GMW	2017	
W6	Management	All	3	CGSC Town planning urban design standards implemented for all new residential, commercial, industrial, public-use & rural developments.	CGSC	CHW	2014	
W7	Project	All (except 6.3.6)	4	Council initiates partnerships to implement programs supporting residential retrofitting of water saving and recycling features and systems.	CHW	CGSC, CVGA	2014	
W8	Project	All (except 6.3.6)	4	Retrofitting of CGSC buildings to better manage water usage.	CGSC		2016	
W9	Project	6.3.5	1	Council catalyses the development of a study to establish sustainable ground water extraction levels and subsequent policy developed by relevant authorities to limit extraction to appropriate levels.	CHW	CGSC, GMW, Hepburn Shire	2015	
W10	Project	6.3.2	1	Council initiates a partnership to pilot an industrial /commercial water recycling project.	CGSC partnership	CHW, MAV	2014	

## 6.4 Waste Management<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

### Vision

**Waste within the shire is regarded as a valuable resource that should be carefully managed to the benefit of the local community and the local eco-system.**

**All waste generated or coming into the shire is managed, recycled or disposed of within the shire.<sup>†††</sup>**

### Outcomes 2020

- Waste inflow to and outflow from the shire is decreasing as management structures and policies inhibit unsustainable waste products from entering the shire and limits potentially productive waste streams from exiting the shire
- Waste being generated in the shire is decreasing
- Waste is related to as a resource that should be carefully managed to the benefit of the community

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Support the development of innovative initiatives that enable the use of locally generated waste to the benefit of the local community
- Establish and maintain high engagement levels with local and regional stakeholders in the waste sector with a view to both changing policy-settings to better support local waste solutions and developing locally-appropriate waste management systems and plant
- Educate the local community about waste issues and waste reduction, emphasising the benefits of locally managed waste
- Advocate strongly to minimise packaging of products that enter the shire to minimise packing waste

### Targets by 2020

- 6.4.1 65% of the shire's municipal waste recycled and reused (2012 baseline)
- 6.4.2 25% decrease in generation of putrescible and non-putrescible waste in the shire
- 6.4.3 100% of local green waste recycled and/or used in a productive manner<sup>†††</sup>
- 6.4.4 % of the shire's commercial and industrial waste recycled and reused (2012 baseline)

### Key Data Sources

- Central Highlands Waste Management Group (including the Annual Report for comparative curb-side weightings across municipalities)

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Waste includes waste water, green, industrial and construction waste as well as commercial and residential packaging waste streams. It excludes class 1 chemicals and some acutely dangerous waste products.

<sup>†††</sup> [http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for\\_government/waste\\_and\\_recycling.html](http://www.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au/for_government/waste_and_recycling.html)

<sup>†††</sup> Percentage targets proposed by Ron Potter, CGSC Engineering Services Manager, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

- Municipal Association of Victoria (6.4.1, 2)
- Central Goldfields Shire Council (Technical Services & Transfer Station)
- Greenwaste Bin Service Survey
- Sustainability Victoria (especially documentation for state-wide municipal waste figures)
- Greenlight Survey for baseline data (6.4.4)
- [Draft Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Policy](#) (Dept. of Sustainability and Environment)
- Local Surveys (including the CGSC surveys) (6.4.1, 2, 4)

## Waste Actions Lists

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
WM 1	Advocacy	6.4.2 6.4.3	2	Legislation enacted by the Victorian government to minimise packaging for commercial and industrial goods.	Victorian govt.	CHWMG, CGSC, MAV, VLGA	2017	
WM 2	Project	All	2	Council initiates a partnership to deliver a business waste education program (inc. reducing, reusing and recycling).	CGSC partnership	CHWMG, SV (Resource Smart)	2016	CHW Management Strategy
WM 3	Project	6.4.1 6.4.2	1	Council initiates a partnership to deliver a residential waste education program (inc. recycling and composting).	CGSC partnership	CHWMG	2013	
WM 4	Project	6.4.1 6.4.2	2	Council initiates a partnership to deliver a school waste education program (inc. recycling and composting).	CGSC partnership	Local Schools, Dept of Education, CHWMG (eg. "The Little Green Wagons" program), Junior Landcare	2014	
WM 5	Advocacy	6.4.1	1	Council advocates to the state government to implement container deposit legislation	CGSC	MAV, CHWMG, Private Sector Businesses	2013	
WM 6	Advocacy	6.4.2	2	Council advocates to the state government to implement product responsibility legislation.	CGSC	Victorian State, government, MAV, CHWMG	2015	
WM 7	Project	6.4.2 6.4.4	4	Council initiates partnerships to implement plastic bag free shire.	Local Sustainability Groups	CGBN, CHWMG, CGSG, Local Retailers (esp. Major Supermarkets)	2017	
WM 8	Management	6.4.1	2	Council facilitates a mechanism to recycle Ewaste and deliver an associated community education program(s).	CGSC	CHWMG, Welfare Organisations, Private Enterprise	2016	
WM 8	Management	6.4.1 6.4.2	2	Council ensures a resource recovery centre is in operation at the Carisbrook transfer station.	CGSC	CHWMG, Transfer Station Operator	2018	
WM	Management	6.4.1	1	Council facilitates, supports and encourages the	CGSC	Sustainability Accord, Sustainability Fund	2020	

10	ent			development of a local waste to energy industry.		CHWMG		
WM 11	Project	6.4.1 6.4.4	2	Council initiates a partnership to deliver a commercial/industrial composting plant.	CGSC partnership	State & Regional Waste Management Groups	2018	
WM 12	Management	6.4.1 6.4.4	2	Council continues to work towards community composting.	CGSC	CGSC transfer station	2013	
WM 13	Project	6.4.1	1	Council initiates a partnership to educate the community about waste management options and prosecute illegal dumping.	CGSC partnership	CHWMG, PV, DSE EPA, Community Organisations (eg. Neighbourhood Houses), Local Industry	2014	Draft, Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Policy

## 6.5 Food Quality and Security

### Vision

**The bulk of the food eaten in the shire is healthy, high-quality and locally produced.**

**There is sufficient capacity in place to transition to be wholly self-sufficient in terms of providing for basic nutritional needs of the local population within 2 years<sup>\$\$\$</sup>.**

### Outcomes 2020

- The quality and quantity of fresh food consumed per capita in the shire has increased dramatically
- The shire's food security profile has improved dramatically as the capacity to produce and/or procure food produced locally and regionally has increased

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Increase locally or regionally produced high quality fresh food
- Facilitate the development of cost-effective distribution networks for high quality fresh food both in the shire and with the local region
- Facilitate an increase in the demand for and consumption of locally produced, high quality fresh food (including through education)
- Accelerate the development of locally managed edible landscapes in the shire's communities.

### Targets by 2020

- 6.5.1 Lower local food insecurity from 10.4% to the general Victorian level of 6%
- 6.5.2 % Increase in production, distribution and consumption of food within >100 food kilometers
- 6.5.3 % Increase in equitable availability of healthy food
- 6.5.4 % decrease in obesity in the shire, including % decrease in obesity in people under 18

### Key Data Sources

- Department of Health (all)
- 2007 Community Indicators Victoria Survey. Subsequent surveys will be released in 2014 and 2018 (6.5.1)
- Local CGSC surveys (6.5.2, 3, 4)
- Healthy Communities Initiative (6.5.3)

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<sup>\$\$\$</sup> Self-sufficient defined as food produced within 50 km's of the shire's borders.

## Food Quality and Security Actions List

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
F1	Management	All	1	Develop a shire-wide, 20 year, "Edible Landscapes Plan" and commence implementation (including community gardens, edible streetscapes, pocket fruit-tree zones etc.).	CGSC	FSN, FSPUD, HCI, MEC, Havilah, Maryborough Hospital	2014	Municipal Public Health Plan, Municipal Strategic Plan, Land Management Plan, Transport Plan
F2	Management	All	2	Develop Council guidelines for land-use planning that include food security issues.	CGSC	DPI, DSE	2015	MSP, Land management plan
F8	Project	All	1	Initiate a partnership that supports the development of commercial distribution networks and businesses that support the sale of locally produced fresh food.	CGSC partnership	Local food production groups, Community groups, Local food purchasing organisations	2017	
F9	Management	All	2	Development of a vehicle that co-ordinates businesses, growers, welfare organizations and others to collect, prepare and distribute excess produce.	CGSC partnership	Welfare orgs, Food outlets and producers Service clubs, NR, Community groups, Schools, Churches, Food Bank, PCP, Second Bite, Meals on Wheels	2016	
F10	Management	6.5.2 6.5.3	4	Increase public transport access, and assistance for those requiring it, to local shopping and markets.	CGSC partnership	Local food outlets, local Service clubs	2015	
F11	Management	6.5.2 6.5.3	4	Council – owned kitchens and school kitchens made available for preparing and distributing healthy fresh food, and for providing healthy cooking instruction.	CGSC partnership	Welfare orgs, PCP, Meals on Wheels	2016	
F13	Project	6.5.2 6.5.4	3	Produce Family Healthy Food Guide.	CGSC, NR	Community health/hospitals, PCP	2014	

F14	Project	6.5.2 6.5.4	4	Regular health page in local paper.	CGSC partnership	Maryborough Advertiser	2013	
F15	Management/Advocacy	All	2	Co-ordinate public/private/community/welfare organisations to promote and model healthy food options and changing behaviors.	CGSC, PCP	Schools, Childcare, Public events – e.g. Energy Breakthrough, Highland Gathering, Community health, Hospitals, Hostels	Ongoing	
F16	Project/Advocacy	6.5.3	3	Water bottle filling facilities at council premises/advocate for same for public locations.	CGSC, CHW?	Supermarkets/shop, Hospital	2015	
F17	Management	6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.3	2	Support the CVGA's Food & Health portfolio development process to provide access to enhancing the development of a knowledge base of best practice for sustainable agriculture.	CVGA	CGSC, DPI, DSE, Local primary producers, Birchip Cropping Group	2013	
F18	Project	6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.3	3	Initiate a partnership to implement a local primary producer's education program.	CGSC partnership	CVGA, DPI, DSE, Local primary producers, Birchip Cropping Group	2014	
F19	Management, Advocacy	6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.3	2	Develop mechanisms to support and encourage sustainable farming practices (eg. with targeted rate relief).	CGSC partnership	CVGA, DPI, DSE, Local primary producers, Birchip cropping group	2014	
F20	Management, Advocacy	All	3	Implement a program that aims to identify appropriate local groups and assist them to apply for healthy food grants.	CGSC, NR	Community groups, funding bodies	2014	
F21	Project	6.5.2 6.5.3	4	Guide to local food producers for promotion to locals and tourists.	CGSC partnerships	GSG, Local primary producers, local processing industry, Food Security Network	2014	
F22	Management	All	3	Develop a policy with the goal of supporting community events and programs that increase the market for fresh food (eg. Farmers Markets, food swaps, community cooking days and school farm visits).	CGSC	GSG, FSN, Local primary producers, schools, NR, PCP	2014	
F23	Advocacy	6.5.2 6.5.3	3	Encourage and support a network of local growers/beverage producers, bakeries, butchers, pubs, cafes, distributors etc. The aim of this network is to enhance the visibility of local food production.	CGSC partnerships	Local primary producers, local processing industry, local shops and businesses,	2015	Municipal Public Health Plan



F24	Project	6.5.2 6.5.3	3	Develop a Community Local Food Harvest mapping facility through an electronic application and mobilize a local volunteer force to collect, input and maintain the mapping facility.	CGSC partnerships	Community groups, Sustainability Groups, School Groups	2014	
F25	Project	All	3	Implement a Maryborough Street Harvest program (local fruit and vegetable harvesting and distribution system which collects excess fruit and vegetables from peoples backyards using volunteers and redistributes it locally amongst the community to people in need via community cooking classes, community centres and emergency relief services).	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Maryborough Community House, Baptist Church, Neighbourhood Renewal, Ministers Fellowship, District Health Service, Salvation Army, Goldfields Employment and Learning Centre,	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan, Street Harvest Project plan, <a href="http://www.streetharvest.org.au">www.streetharvest.org.au</a> website
F26	Management	All	4	Expand the Street Harvest Program across the shire	CGSC partnerships		2015	
F27	Project	6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.3	4	Food Forest – 3 small plantations of fruit trees and vegetables in towns with limited access to fresh produce in Bealiba and Talbot.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	CGSC, Bealiba Progress Association, Bealiba Primary School, Talbot community library, interested community members.	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan
F28	Project	6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.3	4	Expand the Food Forest project across the shire.	CGSC partnerships		2015	
F29	Project	6.5.1 6.5.3 6.5.4	4	Community kitchen and recipe book for Talbot.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Talbot community members	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan, HCI Cookbook
F30	Project	6.5.1 6.5.3 6.5.4	2	Expand the Talbot community kitchen project to other communities in the shire.	CGSC partnerships		2016	
F31	Project	6.5.2 6.5.3	3	Create and market the availability of a Mobile Tool Library that will enable communities to have the equipment they need to grow food and maintain gardens.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Maryborough Community House	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation

								Plan
F32	Project	6.5.1 6.5.3 6.5.4	4	Create a community garden in Dunolly.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Dunolly Community Garden Committee, Dunolly kindergarten	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan
F33	Project	6.5.1 6.5.3 6.5.4	3	Promotion of increased healthy food consumption through the "Swap It" campaign.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Maryborough District Health Service	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan
F34	Management	6.5.2 6.5.4	3	Modification and development of council policies that support staff and communities to eat healthy, nutritious foods. ie Healthy Options Catering policy for all staff functions and community events run by the Shire.	CGSC	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	2013	Healthy Communities Initiative Implementation Plan, Healthy Options Catering Policy
F35	Management	6.5.1 6.5.4	3	Support for schools, early childhood services and workplaces to take part in the Victorian Prevention and Health Promotion Achievement program.	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities	Schools, Early Childhood Services, Workplaces, Health agencies	2014	Grampians Goldfields Healthier Communities Road map

## 6.6 Transport

### Vision

**The transport system in the shire is organised to make commuting easy, cheap, responsive and non-polluting.**

**‘Passive transport’ options like walking and cycling are highly privileged. That and a free and responsive public transport system has radically reduced the need for individual car ownership.**

### Outcomes 2020

- The local public transport system has improved dramatically leading to a massive increase in patronage
- The use of ‘passive transport’ has increased dramatically

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Inclusion in the future planning for the shire the aging population
- Provision of bike paths, walking tracks, transport tracks designed to cater to gophering/mobility devices
- Planning focus on ‘passive transport’ options
- Local, state and federal funds are attracted to upgrade the public transport service
- Innovative business models for funding and maintaining public transport are trialled and adopted
- Local campaigns are run to engage the community in public transport as an effective local transport option

### Targets by 2020

- 6.6.1      % increase in public transport journeys in the shire
- 6.6.2      % increase in local public transport systems that can be directly responsive to community requirements
- 6.6.3      % increase in the length of walking and cycling tracks
- 6.6.4      % reduction in heavy traffic in residential area
- 6.6.5      % increase in train patronage

### Key Data Sources

- V/Line (train and bus)
- Department of Transport
- CGSC for local bus use
- ABS data (6.6.7)
- Public Transport Victoria (6.6.1)
- Infrastructure Group in Council (6.6.4)

## Transport

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
T1				No Transport actions have been devised				

## 6.7 Ecosystem Enhancement

### Vision

**The local ecosystem is getting richer, stronger, and more resilient to environmental shocks.**

**Community members see themselves as environmental stewards. They are empowered and enabled to proactively support the continued growth of eco-system quality in the Central Goldfields Region.**

**Ecosystem enhancement is premised on a sense of responsibility for the natural environment. It is not premised on returning ecosystems to a previous state but rather on supporting the growth of a new preferred state**

### Outcomes 2020

- Environmental assets in the shire are well mapped. Where required this includes research into environmental values and eco-system interactions
- Central Goldfield's integration in region-wide environmental management and support has increased dramatically. As a catalyst and a consequence, local engagement in these activities has increased and the agencies and groups that have chosen to be responsible for these efforts are overwhelmed by offers of support from within the without the local community
- Innovative and integrated cross-sectoral management and planning structures have been established that will support the growth and increasing integration of the CGSC into region-wide efforts to enhance eco-systems across the state

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- Supporting and enabling efforts to integrate the work of different environmental support groups within the shire and with groups in adjacent shires
- Increasing the appreciation of the local natural environment in the local community: it's uniqueness, complexity and its importance to us
- Engagement with local and regional landholders to empower and enable them to become effective advocates and stewards for eco-system enhancement and regeneration
- Medium, long and very long-term planning (100 years+) is accepted as a baseline requirement when planning for and managing eco-system protection and growth
- Ecosystem implications must be assessed in all important decisions in the shire by all stakeholders

### Targets by 2020

- 6.7.1 Native vegetation: Increase of 'x' in the ratio of low to high value lands
- 6.7.2 Increase in soil health: % decrease in land-area susceptibility to water erosion; % increase in organic content
- 6.7.3 % increase in the health of roadside vegetation
- 6.7.4 % increase in stream and wetland condition

### **Key Data Sources**

- Dellavedova Fertiliser Services Pty Ltd (6.7.2)
- Department of Primary Industries
- Catchment Management Authority
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Landcare networks (6.7.1, 3, 4)

## Ecosystem Enhancement Action Lists

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
EE1	Management	6.7.1	1	Council supports the Box-Ironbark Private Landholders Conservation Program.	DSE	PV, LC, CGSC, NCCMA LCG, Private Landowners, FG	Ongoing	
EE2	Project	6.7.1	1	Council initiates a the foundation of a Mooloort Wetlands Private Landholders Conservation Program.	CGSC partnerships	DSE, PV, CGSC LCG, DSE, PV, LW, PL, FG, CVGA	2015	
EE3	Advocacy	6.7.1	2	Council initiates and supports partnerships that lead to the formation of Wildlife Corridors.	CGSC partnerships	DSE, PV, LCG, DSE, LW, Private Landowners, FG, CVGA	2017	
EE4	Management	All	1	Increase Public & Private Land with Conservation Status by 10%.	DSE	CGSC, LCG, DSE, PV, LW, Private Landowners, FG	2020	
EE5	Management	6.7.1 6.7.2	3	Increase the amount of land in the shire with High Conservation Value.	DSE	CGSC, LCG, DSE, PV, LW, Private Landowners, FG	Ongoing	
EE6	Management	All	1	Appoint a Council Sustainability Officer.	CGSC	DSE, Private Landowners, FG	2013	
EE7	Management	All	1	Prepare an Environmental Asset Register for the Shire.	CGSC	LCG, DSE, PV, LW Private Landowners, FG	2014	
EE8	Management	6.7.1 6.7.2 6.7.4	2	Provide Rate Incentives to landowners who practice environmental rehabilitation.	CGSC	CGSC, Private Landowners	2014	
EE9	Advocacy	6.7.2 6.7.4	2	Riparian buffer system protection system expanded through the EPA and the NCCMA.	NCCMA	Landcare groups, EPA, CGSC	2016	
EE 10	Project	6.7.2 6.7.4	2	Council initiates a partnership to develop a local landowner's erosion control program.	CGSC partnership	Landcare groups, Local primary producers, DPI	2016	
EE 11	Management	6.7.2 6.7.4	2	Council catalyses the revision of the environmental stream flows in creeks and rivers management system.	CHW GMW	CGSC	2016	

## 6.8 Built Environment and Land-use

### Vision

**Land-use planning and practice in the shire increasingly integrates social, economic and environmental values and future threats. Careful integration to maximise benefits from the use of land is increasingly the norm.**

### Outcomes 2020

- **All land-use decisions carefully calibrate local and regional social, economic and environmental issues with the view to maximising benefits to all of them.**
- **A 'green building' approach has become the norm in the local development, building and electrical and plumbing services sectors.**

### Strategies for achieving the 2020 outcomes

- The shires Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) includes provision for the careful integration of local and regional social, economic and environmental issues
- The local development, rural and services sectors are heavily engaged in the longer-term shire vision and in building 'greener' developments
- Sufficient local capacity has been developed to support the growth of a 'green building' sector in the shire through training, demand enhancement and exposure to innovative practices, especially with the local development, building and plumbing and electrical services sectors
- Innovative local projects are supported that fulfil on these priorities
- All Greenfield developments are carefully managed through the town-planning process to ensure high-level 'green building' principals are adhered to
- Local agricultural land-use is enhanced to include better eco-system enhancement and management through access to training

### Targets by 2020

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 6.8.1 | % of new developments in the shire infill not greenfield sites   |
| 6.8.2 | % of new developments above current state Environmental Sustainable Development standards (inc. the BCA 6 star thermal standard)   |
| 6.8.3 | 100% of CGSC's "All Area Management Plans" include integrated WSUD, ESD and sustainability criteria  |
| 6.8.4 | % increase in the building sector professionals registered in the shire are trained in sustainable building practices (e.g. registered builders, plumbers, electricians, draughts-people and architects) |
| 6.8.5 | % increase in diversity of farm enterprises (inc. crop diversity, carbon farming and other primary production businesses)  |

### Key Data Sources

- ABS Farm Census data



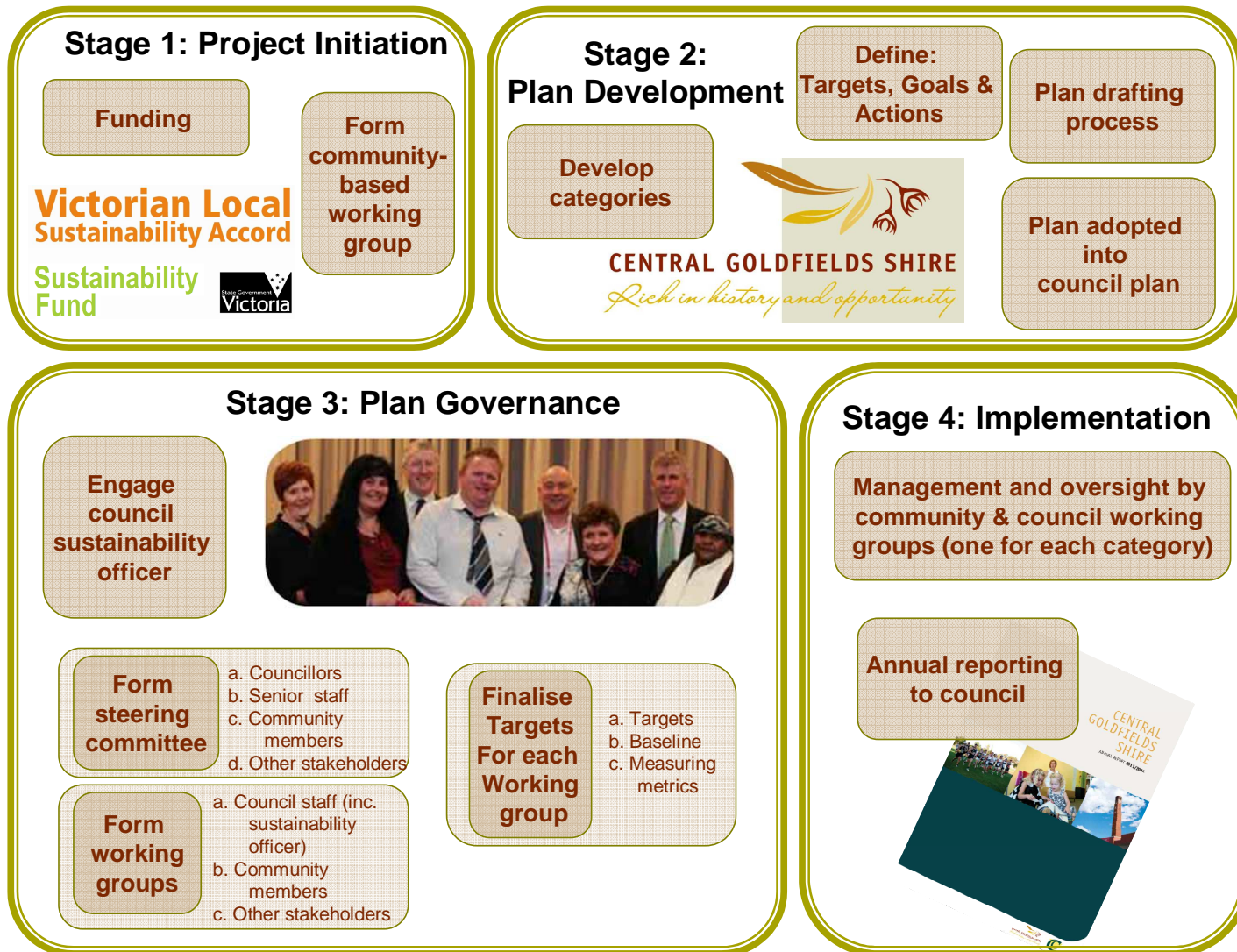
## Built Environment and Land-use Draft Actions List

- 6.8.1 % of new developments in the shire infill not greenfield sites
- 6.8.2 % of new developments above current state Environmental Sustainable Development standards (inc. the BCA 6 star thermal standard)
- 6.8.3 100% of CGSC's "All Area Management Plans" include integrated WSUD, ESD and sustainability criteria
- 6.8.4 % increase in the building sector professionals registered in the shire are trained in sustainable building practices (e.g. registered builders, plumbers, electricians, draughts-people and architects)
- 6.8.5 % increase in diversity of farm enterprises (inc. crop diversity, carbon farming and other primary production businesses)

Ref	Action Type	Target	Priority	Name	Responsible Agency	Stakeholders	Completion Date	Council or other support Docs
BEL1	Management	6.8.2 6.8.5	1	Incentive structure introduced to support the development of a Green building market and skills base (eg. rates and buildings fees).	CGSC	VECCI, Business Victoria, Building commission, GBCA	2014	
BEL2	Management	6.8.2	4	Council to adopt the GBCA Precinct Tool as the preferred assessment methodology for local greenfields sites, with a requirement of a minimum 4 star Greenstar standard and penalties if this is not achieved.	CGSC	GBCA	2014	
BEL3	Management	6.8.2 6.8.4	2	Adoption (including training in the use of) the Sustainable Training and Environmental Performance Scorecard (STEPS) and Sustainable Design Scorecard (SDS) into Council statutory planning processes.	CGSC	CASBE, MAV	2014	
BEL4	Management	6.8.2	3	Implementation of mechanisms for 'fast-tracking' greener building (eg. rates relief and 'fast-track' permits).	CGSC		2014	
BEL5	Management	6.8.2	4	Implementation of a mechanism that identifies and advertises government rebates in the Green building space.	CGSC		2014	
BEL6	Project	6.8.2	2	Council initiates partnerships to foster "Community Pride" in the local built environment and in ESD functionality in the	CGSC	GBN	2020	

				shire's buildings.	partnership			
BEL7	Project	6.8.2 6.8.4	1	Council initiates partnerships to make Green Building Courses attractive to local builders and apprentices.	TAFE	CGSC	2015	
BEL8	Management	6.8.2	2	Council implements a requirement for an 'exemplary' green building in each development incorporated in the MSS	CGSC		2014	
BEL9	Project	6.8.2 6.8.4	4	Annual Green Building Tour Program created.	CGSC partnership	GSG	2013	
BEL10	Project	6.8.5	1	Council initiates partnerships and supports the development of carbon-farming agriculture in the shire. 4000 hectares to be grown specifically to store carbon.	CVGA	CVGA, bankmecu Landcare facilitators, Carbon Farming Initiative (Clean Energy Future, Fed Govt)	2016	
BEL11	Project	6.8.5	2	Council initiates partnerships to support the development of biochar facilities in the shire.	CGSC	CVGA, bankmecu Biochar Capacity Building Program (Clean Energy Future, Fed Govt)	2018	
BEL12	Management	6.8.1 6.8.3	2	Council implements zoning overlays that enhance sustainability qualities.	CGSC	MAV	2016	
BEL13	Project	All1	1	Population increase planning incorporates strong sustainability enhancement mechanisms.	CGSC	GSC, GBN	2013	

## Appendix 1. Stages of Implementation



1. Provision of Funding from the Sustainability Accord.
2. Formation of the Environmental Sustainability Steering Committee (ESSC).
3. Development of Action Item categories.
4. Research on Targets, Goals and Actions.
5. Drafting process of the Action Plan.
6. Submission of Action Plan to Council for adoption/inclusion in the Council business plan.
7. Engagement of a Council Sustainability Officer to manage the implementation of the plan.
8. Formation of a Sustainability Plan Steering Committee to meet bi or tri-annually constituting:
  - a. senior members of council staff (including the mayor and / or ceo)
  - b. members of the ESSC plan development committee (disbanded)
  - c. other local stakeholders (including potentially Water and waste authorities, local health and other service delivery, community and sports groups, s86 committees etc)
9. Formation of Sustainability Plan Working Groups for each Action Item category (eg. water, ecosystem enhancement etc.) constituting:
  - a. relevant members of council staff
  - b. members of the ESSC plan development committee (disbanded)
  - c. other local stakeholders (including potentially Water and waste authorities, local health and other service delivery, community and sports groups, s86 committees etc)
10. Each working group to develop concrete delivery targets for each Action Item category (eg. Human Water Use, Ecosystem Enhancement etc.) and the required baseline and measuring metrics.
11. Delivery targets to be submitted to the steering committee for approval. Approved targets to be directed to appropriate business unit in council or elsewhere as required.
12. Working groups to facilitate and oversee implementation of the plan in the Community with the support of the steering committee.
13. Yearly review of Targets and Action Items by both working groups and the steering committee reported to CGSC Council.