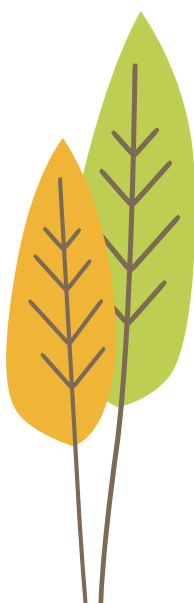




# EAGA

EASTERN ALLIANCE  
FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION



## ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

### CHAIR STATEMENT

*EAGA councils welcome the re-emergence of climate policy on the Victorian Government's agenda over the past twelve months and have been pleased to actively contribute to the consultation processes for the Victorian Climate Change Framework and the Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy amongst other consultative processes. Local Government's leadership on local climate action has continued against a back-drop of an increasingly challenging financial environment. The emergence of rate capping emphasises the critical nature of the work of EAGA (and the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances) in capturing economies of scale and efficiencies that enable member councils to deliver programs that would not be possible at the individual municipal level. Critically, EAGA's shared staff resource has been able to effectively work with members and other regional partners to secure new funding to support the work of councils. In addition to grant funding, the savings from EAGA projects continue to deliver greenhouse and financial outcomes for councils. On average, EAGA's initiatives return \$1.50 for every dollar invested by councils. A particularly notable highlight was winning a United Nations Award and EAGA's leadership role in electricity regulatory reviews which will deliver over \$22M in savings to councils across the state over the next five years. I'd like to thank Scott McKenry (EAGA Regional Coordinator) for his leadership, hard work and support over the last twelve months.*

**Cr. Erin Davie**

City of Stonnington

EAGA Executive Chair



	Initiative	Outcomes
Mitigation and adaptation projects	Biodiversity Monitoring in Melbourne' East	Winner of the 2016 United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) World Environment Day Local Government Award. The project successfully trialled a framework for monitoring indicators of biodiversity health in the context of a changing climate.
	Solar Rates Business Case	EAGA secured over \$60,700 in State Government funding to support the development of a business case for a state-wide solar program to assist low income households in Victoria to access solar PV systems, using council rates charges as an underpinning finance mechanism.
	Solar PV for Low Income Households	Utilising the findings of the Solar Rates business case report, EAGA led a consortium of 22 council partners to secure \$0.76M in State Government funding to deliver a large scale residential solar program for low income and vulnerable households.
	Eastern Sporting Savers	EAGA is rolling out a targeted engagement program to assist thirty four of the region's sports clubs save on their energy bills. The program is supported by a \$30,000 State Government grant.
Capacity building and information exchange	Future Assets Forum	EAGA delivered a customised training program for council asset and facility managers to embed building vulnerability assessment approaches within ongoing asset management practices and capital works programs. The initiative supports the first priority of EAGA's Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap – to conduct a regional building vulnerability assessment.
	Sunulator Training	EAGA partnered with the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) to deliver training for members on a software tool which assesses the economic feasibility of installing solar and battery storage under a range of different scenarios.
Advocacy	Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR)	EAGA worked with the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, Ironbark Sustainability and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to develop a joint EDPR submission on behalf of the local government sector. As a result of the submission, the state's 79 municipalities will save \$22M in reduced public lighting operation, maintenance and replacement (OMR) costs in the next five years. Total savings across the EAGA region are estimated at \$0.37M for the next 5 years.
	Engagement	Through direct engagement in Ministerial roundtables and other consultation processes, EAGA has been able to actively contribute to a number of key State Government plans (including the Victorian Renewable Energy Roadmap and the Victorian Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement) and revisions to energy efficiency programs that support local government involvement.

## ADVOCACY SUBMISSIONS

The last twelve months have been a particularly intensive period of advocacy activity, including thirteen formal submissions:

- Rule Change for Demand Management Incentives
- Australia's Post 2020 Emissions Reduction Target
- Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Review
- Electricity Distribution Price Review (Pt 1)
- Review of the Climate Change Act 2010
- Review of the Governance Arrangements for Australian Energy Markets

- Victoria's Renewable Energy Roadmap
- Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) Proposed Changes
- Review of the Local Government Act 1989
- Review of the Sustainability Fund Priority Statement
- Electricity Distribution Price Review (Pt 2)
- Local Generation Network Credits
- Victorian Climate Change Framework

EAGA members agree that these submissions would not have occurred in the absence of a dedicated staff resource to coordinate their development and build consensus around shared advocacy positions. Read all submissions at [www.eaga.com.au](http://www.eaga.com.au).

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS

*"EAGA is more effective than our other regional networks because it has a dedicated staff resource to drive and coordinate its activities. The impressive breadth of outcomes over the past 3.5 years provides clear and demonstrable evidence that the Alliance model works."*

**Cr Maria McCarthy, Mayor, Yarra Ranges Council**

*"The EcoDriver training program has proven to be a cost effective program enabling nearly 200 Knox staff and volunteers to take part over the past three years. The fuel savings alone is returning nearly \$5 for every \$1 invested in training. Access to this type of cost effective program will not be possible without our involvement in the Alliance"*

**Cr John Mortimore, Knox City Council**

*"Membership in EAGA has allowed the City of Boroondara to unlock opportunities where going it alone is not a realistic option. The City will see some \$50,000 per annum savings for public street lighting directly resulting from EAGAs submission to the Victorian Electricity Distribution Price Review."*

**Adam Hall, City of Boroondara**

*"The expertise, funds and links with stakeholders that EAGA provides is invaluable in enabling the region to participate in advocacy and significant projects. The UN award that EAGA received this year for its biodiversity project adds further strength to its work."*

**Cr Les Willmott, Maroondah City Council**

*"The success of EAGA provides a clear example of the importance of providing funding for administrative support, if we wish to achieve good outcomes in greenhouse gas emissions reductions"*

**Cr Helen Harris, City of Whitehorse**

## FEEDBACK FROM OUR PARTNERS

*"Arup was excited to partner with EAGA and NAGA for the Future Assets Forum in late 2015 and would happily do so again. This forum enabled us to further develop climate change vulnerability frameworks for local government asset managers and, in the process, build capacity within Councils. As a direct result of the forum, Councils were able to make more compelling grant applications to State Government for adaptation funding."*

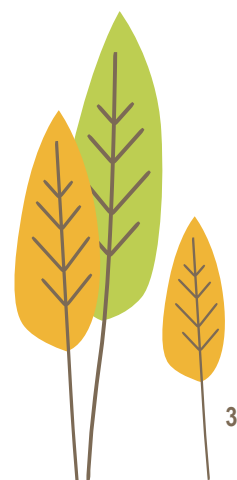
**Dr Gerard Healy, Arup**

*"We've welcomed the opportunity to partner with EAGA on the Solar Rates project. EAGA has taken leadership to resolve the most effective approach for Councils to scale up support for disadvantaged households. Their approach demonstrates their commitment to navigating complex technical and policy issues and resolving effective approaches to support the communities they represent to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change"*

**Bruce Thompson, Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd**

*"This year has marked a substantially closer working relationship between the two alliances that has led to improved outcomes for all our council members."*

**David Meiklejohn, NAGA Executive Officer**



## ABOUT

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of seven Councils in Melbourne's east, working together on regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate regional adaptation. The Alliance implements joint initiatives that provide economies of scale and enable projects typically beyond the reach of individual Councils. EAGA's project work is complemented by advocacy, capacity building and regional partnerships.



## MEMBERS

- City of Boroondara
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Monash City Council
- City of Stonnington
- City of Whitehorse
- Yarra Ranges Council

## CONTACT

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