CENTRAL VICTORIAN Greenhouse Alliance

casbe Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment

EAGA EASTERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION

goulburn broken greenhouse alliance

NAGA NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION

SECCCA South East Councils Climate Change Alliance

WAGA Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

By email: richard.wynne@parliament.vic.gov.au

4 June 2018

Dear Minister Wynne,

Re: Improved planning controls for sustainable buildings and urban ecology

The Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA), the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) and the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) would like to raise some important issues relating to planning controls for sustainable buildings and vegetation in urban areas.

On behalf of our member councils we urge you to:

1. **Support the Cities of Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Greater Bendigo, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Whittlesea and Wyndham in their efforts to realise a local ESD planning policy.**

As you are aware, a growing number of councils are providing detailed guidance on sustainability in buildings through local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policies in their planning scheme. To date ten councils have gazetted polices, and another seven are in the process of an amendment. We applaud your decision to extend the expiry dates for the existing local ESD policies (until June 2019), and we welcome the consideration of your department of local ESD policies by the Cities of Brimbank, Greater Dandenong, Greater Bendigo, Hobsons Bay, Kingston, Whittlesea and Wyndham.

Furthermore, we would like to emphasise that with the trigger for these policies typically being 2 or more dwellings, or +1000m2 for non-residential building, these policies are applicable for all council types, whether metropolitan, regional or rural.

2. **Support a more comprehensive approach to sustainable built form.**

The local ESD policies are a necessary and vital step in the right direction, although they are only a part of a bigger picture. To fully realise the potential for adaptive and resilient buildings and cities, we believe additional, more detailed guidance is required in a number of areas.

We seek a more comprehensive, holistic approach to sustainable built form that encompasses not only resilient, adaptable buildings, but also green infrastructure, integrated water management, integration with emerging transport options, energy efficient designs and more socially sustainable structures.

We also seek an approach that does not disadvantage rural and regional councils with limited resourcing to implement planning amendments.

We are encouraged by some of the work by your department and industry in this area, in particular

- DELWP's review of Victoria's land use planning and building systems, to improve the management of natural hazards in these systems in the context of climate change – the ***Improved management in the planning and buildings systems of natural hazards in light of climate change*** Discussion paper.
- DELWP's commissioning of CSIRO's Climate Science Centre (CSC) to develop a high-resolution climate projections data and guidance package to deliver dynamically downscaled projections covering all of Victoria. This will assist planning and building legislation to understand and incorporate projected regional climate change impacts, extreme weather events and insights into climate change adaptation planning.
- Resilient Melbourne – **Melbourne Metropolitan Urban Forest Strategy.**
- **Plan Melbourne 2017-2050** which commits to creating urban forests throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area (Policy 6.4.1, Action 91). It is a whole-of-government commitment that includes a package of initiatives to facilitate a cooler, greener and more liveable city. Also Action 85 relating to the 'improvement of natural-hazard, climate change and environmental adaptation and risk-mitigation strategies in the Victorian Planning Provisions' (p.11).
- **Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan**, which includes the action 'review land use planning policies and provisions to improve the way the land-use planning system manages natural hazards, climate change and environmental risks' (p.48).
- **Vegetation cover, heat and land-use data** project being undertaken collaboratively between DELWP, CSIRO and RMIT.
- **The Smart Planning program**, which seeks to improve the clarity, transparency, and accessibility.

3. Fast track the consideration and introduction of clear and specific requirements for urban ecology within the Victoria Planning Provisions, to prevent further unnecessary vegetation loss.

Current rates of development and approaches to site coverage are resulting in a high level of urban vegetation clearance. This loss of vegetation not only results in less green space and adverse ecological impacts, but has unintended impacts such as reduced soil stability and issues related to ground and storm-water management.

Our council members have experienced situations where developers would rather pay a fine for removing significant vegetation than implement strategies to retain it. Despite the best efforts of local government, urban vegetation is being cleared at a faster rate than can be replaced in the public realm. Our members' efforts to increase urban vegetation in the private realm are challenged with the limitations of the current planning controls.

4. Support the establishment of a working partnership between DELWP and local government on the future of ESD in planning.

With our collective membership we have a wealth of experience in ESD in planning.

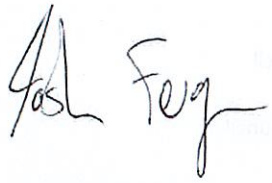
We would welcome the opportunity to develop a collaborative partnership with your department on developing an approach to mandatory ESD controls for buildings in our planning framework. We believe planning is an important part of the solution towards a sustainable future for our cities, suburbs and towns.

Please contact Natasha Palich, CASBE Executive Officer on npalich@mav.asn.au to facilitate such a partnership.

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)
Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)
Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)
Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)

Thank you for your consideration of the above issues .We look forward to hearing from you.

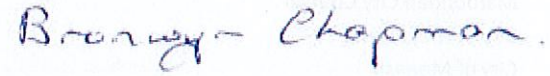
Kind regards,



Cr Josh Fergeus
Executive Committee Chair
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Councillor, City of Monash

Natasha Palich
Executive Officer
Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment
Municipal Association of Victoria

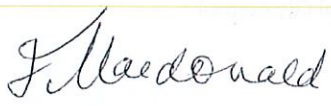
Rob Law
Executive Officer
Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance



Browen Chapman
Executive Officer
Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance

David Meiklejohn
Executive Officer
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action

Dominique La Fontaine
Executive Officer
South East Councils Climate Change Alliance



Fran MacDonald
Executive Officer
Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action

This submission has been approved through the formal governance structures of the local government networks party to this letter. The submission may not have been formally endorsed by a majority councillor vote within individual councils.

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Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)

www.casbe.org.au

CASBE is an alliance of 26 councils focusing on the application of ESD principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system. Our members include:

- City of Banyule
- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Brimbank City Council
- City of Darebin
- City of Greater Bendigo
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Hume City Council
- City of Kingston
- Knox City Council
- Manningham City Council
- City of Maribyrnong
- Maroondah City Council
- City of Melbourne
- City of Monash
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Moreland City Council
- City of Port Phillip
- City of Stonnington
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- City of Whitehorse
- City of Whittlesea
- City of Wodonga
- Wyndham City Council
- City of Yarra
- Yarra Ranges Council

Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA)

www.eaga.com.au

EAGA is a formal Alliance of eight councils in Melbourne's East, committed to delivering mitigation and adaptation projects and advocating for initiatives that support sustainable, low carbon communities. Our members include:

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

Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA)

www.cvga.org.au

CVGA is a network of 12 local governments working together for a low carbon, resilient Central and Northern Victoria. Our members include:

- Ararat Rural Council
- City of Ballarat
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Buloke Shire Council
- Central Grampians Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Loddon Shire
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Pyrenees Shire
- Swan Hill Rural City Council

Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA)

www.gbga.com.au

The GBGA was established in 2007 to promote and support regional action on climate change. Our members include:

- Benalla Rural City Council
- Campaspe Shire Council
- City of Wodonga
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Hume region)
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Indigo Shire Council
- Mansfield Shire Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council
- North East Catchment Management Authority
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Strathbogie Shire Council

Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)

NAGA is a network of nine councils in Melbourne's north and the Moreland Energy Foundation, working together to create a low carbon, climate adaptive future. Our members include:

- City of Banyule
- City of Darebin
- Hume City Council
- Manningham City Council
- City of Melbourne
- Nillumbik Shire Council
- Moreland City Council
- City of Whittlesea
- City of Yarra
- Moreland Energy Foundation

South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)

SECCCA supports communities, businesses and industries in the south east region to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Baw Baw Shire Council
- Bayside City Council
- City of Cardinia
- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Kingston
- Mornington Peninsular Shire
- City of Port Phillip

Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)

WAGA councils work collaboratively to respond to climate change across the region and encourage their communities – residents and businesses – to make a transition to a low carbon society. Our members include:

- Brimbank City Council
- City of Greater Geelong
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Melton City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Wyndham City Council