

“What you said” – Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy Consultation Report

“What you said” is a companion document to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017). This document contains all of the community comments and ideas received by Council during the Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy consultation period (January, February 2014). Community members can track the feedback they provided during this time to see whether their comments or ideas have been included in the development of the Strategy. This was the third phase of consultation during the development of the Strategy.

The first phase of consultation was two surveys released in 2012 to gain an understanding of Councils environmental sustainability management performance and to ensure that the contents of the Strategy reflect the community’s environmental priorities and values.

- 143 community members participated in the “community environmental sustainability values and behaviours survey”
- 27 staff members from all five Council directorates contributed via the “Council staff environmental sustainability survey”.

The second phase was a discussion paper to provide Council, Council stakeholders and the wider community with background information relevant to the development of the Strategy. Key outcomes from the six-week discussion paper community consultation period (March, April 2013):

- Fifty-two people attended the four community workshops held at Dookie (18/03/13, 16 attendees), Shepparton (20/03/13, 15 attendees), Mooroopna (20/03/13, 12 attendees), and Tatura (10/04/13, 9 attendees).
- Eighty-five community responses received.
- The community responses contained 1,072 specific comments.
- A companion “What you said” report containing specific comments and responses received about the discussion paper was available to the community during the Draft – Strategy consultation period.

Results of the Draft Strategy consultation period (third phase):

- Fifty-five responses received (21 individual community members, 12 agencies, organisations or community groups, 22 Council staff).
- These responses contained 420 specific comments.

The overwhelming majority of feedback and comments received on the Draft Strategy contained constructive remarks relating to environmental management issues and how Council can achieve positive outcomes on these matters. Comments that related to Council’s efforts to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy were also positive.

Many positive comments were received regarding the comprehensiveness, structure and honesty of the document and consultation process. Of the 72 general comments received about the Draft Strategy, 69 were positive and three were negative. Two of the negative comments stated that they were pessimistic about Council’s environmental actions in the past and one comment stated that the content of the Strategy was repetitive at times.

Consultation comments have been divided into two tables, one contains comments about the Draft Strategy, the other contains comments about the Action Plan. Table contents include the topic or keyword for each comment, who provided/or how the comment was received, and an outline of the potential action or outcome that relates to the comment given.

Each comment is linked to the chapter or section of the Draft Strategy or Action Plan. Some comments and ideas that are linked to the action plan also contain the action/actions that they relate to. This does not imply that Council will definitely undertake the idea or suggestion. These comments and ideas will be considered as an implementation activity to achieve the listed action during the next four years. Each table includes a description of the outcome of that comment including an explanation of why any comment or idea may not have been included in the development of the Strategy.

The community provided many specific ideas for implementation activities to achieve the objectives and actions of the Strategy. The action plan however, does not include detail about the specific implementation activities to perform to achieve each action. The Strategy is a high-level strategic document so the action plan lists the objectives, actions and some key indicators and targets to achieve. Including specific implementation activities in the action plan would have dramatically increased its size and complexity, which we were keen to avoid.

Greater Shepparton City Council and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the stakeholders, community organisations and community members who have contributed to the development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Table 1: Comments received on the contents of the Draft Strategy

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	Content	I believe that hard work, future orientated thinking and strong ongoing efforts to communicate with our citizens has resulted in an excellent policy draft for the Shepparton districts future.	Community submission 1	Noted
		I like the structure of the policy.		
		Not too bulky		
		The document is attractive		
		Great effort	Community submission 5	Noted
		The report is well researched and developed to be easy to follow , as it provides a lot of background and backup resulting in key directions being broken up into objectives/actions/outcomes , and having short/medium/long term/ongoing goals. It is easy to read but the size and breadth of the document shows the issues that are confronting us.	Community submission 6	Noted
		Congratulations on putting together a draft that reads quite well and uses plain English.	Community submission 7	Noted
		The report is comprehensive and provides council and the communities it serves with a positive direction.		Noted
		Sustainability is a very broad concept and covers many aspects of the Council's activities and responsibilities.	Community submission 10	Noted
		I endorse the general thrust of the document, and congratulate Council and staff on their foresight and efforts to date.	Community submission 13	Noted
		I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example.	Community submission 14	Noted
		It is very comprehensive.		
		Overall I found the document well-presented and easy to read.	Community submission 15	Noted
		It covers all details with objectives clearly set out.	Community submission 16	Noted
		The booklet is an excellent publication.		
		It is a well researched and comprehensive document.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Good document - easy to follow	Council staff	Noted

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	Content	Some repetition throughout which seems to make the flow of the document a little difficult to follow	Council staff 1	Amended
		Very comprehensive	Council staff 2	Noted
		Photo on the cover - Reedy swamp was taken by Serena Hunt - photo8??	Council staff 3	Noted
		The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is generally supportive of the draft strategy's contents	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of a unifying environmental framework and the vision proposed in the draft strategy.		
		I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Council for developing such a comprehensive and well written document.	GBGA	Noted
		The Strategy reflects the wide range of environmental issues in the Shepparton region and commits to future action.	GBGA	Noted
		Content is realistic	GB LGBRG	Noted
		Most issues /aspects of the DESS are well covered.	GB LGBRG	Noted
		All relevant points have been included in the document.	GVW	Noted
		Overall it is a well presented and logical document.	GVW	Noted
		looks great, well done	Staff 16	Noted
		Amazing document!	Staff 2	Noted
		I like the way its easy to read.	Trust for Nature	Noted
		I think overall it is a great plan, covers all areas.		
		The Strategy is realistic not overly ambitious wanting to change the world in 3 years. It has great goals and is ambitious in regards to improving biodiversity and making change. I've read many Local government and other strategies and they have wanted to solve 200 years of clearing in 3 years.		
		The strategy looks great.		
		Overall, the Draft – Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 addresses key Sustainability principles	University of Melbourne	Noted
		The Draft – Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 is a comprehensive document and clearly includes key issues for Sustainability.		
		Quite impressed on initial read with the content and the layout and the Action tables	VicRoads	Noted
		Have browsed through the draft COGS ESS and cannot really find any glaring omissions from a personal or VicRoads view.		

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	Council adoption	The draft report is seen as an important starting point and it should be adopted.	Community submission 10	Noted
		I look forward to the completion of this process and the endorsement of COGS Environmental Sustainability Strategy by our Councillors.	Community submission 13	Noted
		Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment and I wish you all the best in finalising the GS ESS 2014-2030	Community submission 15	Noted
		I urge COGS to adopt the draft policy with minimal change.	Community submission 2	Noted
		GVEG wishes Councillors and management well in the final deliberations of this important Environmental Strategy.	GVEG	Noted
	Definitions	Definition of sustainability required up front	Community submission 9	The definition of environmental sustainability management is provided on the bottom of page 3. Sustainability & sustainable development definition on page 4.
	General	My main concerns were expressed in my comments on the discussion paper.	Community submission 10	Noted
		Congratulations to all involved and I sincerely hope that we can all work together to create change otherwise our Grandchildren, may ask the question---Why oh Why/	Community submission 11	Noted
		I would like to commend you and your team on the Draft document - the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030.	Community submission 14	Noted
		Well done to GSCC	Community submission 16	Noted
		As a resident, farmer, and someone who cares about the future of this region, thank-you for undertaking this Strategy.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Greater Shepparton City Council on the production of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy.		
		It is clearly is of great importance to the Sustainability and Environment Department.		
		Many great ideas and actions are proposed, which I think is a direct result of not enough resources having been spent on our environment in the past.		
		Firstly congratulations to all council staff involved in the development of this document.	Community submission 4	Noted

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General comments	General	Please pass on my congratulations to Council, and all the officers involved in the preparation of the draft report for the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030. Well done!	Community submission 7	Noted
		You and the team are to be congratulated for the overall direction of the plan, the value it puts on our natural assets, and recognition of the reality of human induced climate change.	Community submission 8	Noted
		Great Document	Council staff 1	Noted
		On behalf of the Cussen Park Advisory Committee I congratulate you and the GSCC for developing this draft strategy and look forward to its finalisation.	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		Congratulation on all of your hard work to date. We look forward to reading the final version	DEPI	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA commends Greater Shepparton City Council for their commitment to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that will “improve Council’s environmental sustainability performance by imbedding environmental sustainability considerations into Council’s decision-making processes and operational activities”.	GB CMA	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA would like to acknowledge the effort that Council has put into the development of the Draft Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030.		
		Goulburn Murray Landcare congratulate the city of Greater Shepparton for developing this strategy.	GMLN	Noted
		Great Document	Staff 11	Noted
		Good document overall	Staff 6	Noted
		Council should be congratulated in bringing these issues into the decision-making process of the work undertaken for the community.	University of Melbourne	Noted
		There are a number of similarities between the University of Melbourne Sustainability Strategy and the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy, in particular the importance of engagement with the local communities and communication pathways. Our sustainability activities are informed by an Environmental Policy and Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan. The plan identifies the objectives and actions required to achieve our 2011 – 2015 sustainability targets and can be found at:		

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		http://sustainablecampus.unimelb.edu.au/our_commitment/2011-2015_plan.html		
General comments	General	Great job.	VicRoads	Noted
	Implementation	I am cynical in regards to Councils environmental plan and efforts when seats along the boulevard were recently installed facing the road instead of the river!	Anonymous 2	This will be discussed with the appropriate Council departments.
		I am cynical in regards to Councils environmental plan and efforts when the Benalla Rd redevelopment missed opportunities to improve bike infrastructure (lanes?). Energy intensive to get out to the shops there?		
		Best Wishes for the future of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy. I am looking forward to the successful achievements of the aspirational environmental outcomes.	Community submission 12	Noted
		Well done! I hope the proposed outcomes will become the reality.	Community submission 14	Noted
		It's the right way to go and I'm looking forward to seeing a positive future in Shepparton as a result of the adoption and implementation of this strategy.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Good luck with implementation of the Strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted
		It will remain to be seen how the current Federal Governments' decisions ,to wind back and neuter any environmental gains fought for over a number of decades , will impact on the endeavours of Local Councils to adapt to change and try to maintain/sustain the Environment at a reasonable level. We can only hope that the strength of feeling is that we can work on a local level to do as much as we can.	Community submission 6	Noted
		This report shows a real commitment for taking responsibility in a difficult policy area.		
		Goulburn Murray Landcare welcome the implementation of the strategy.	GMLN	Noted
		Good luck with it all.	VicRoads	Noted
	Partnerships	As a signatory to our recently developed GB Regional catchment Strategy 2013-2019, the City of Greater Shepparton acknowledged a willingness to work in partnership with other stakeholders to deliver the RCS outcomes.	GB CMA	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA is willing to work with Greater Shepparton City Council on many of the actions identified within your Strategy. (See further comments below under Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2014-2017 section).	GB CMA	Noted
		We also recognise that there are many synergies between our Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability	GB CMA	Noted

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		Strategy 2014-2030, that will allow both organisations to work in partnership to achieve the outcomes of both Strategies.		
General comments	Partnerships	We hope that you find our comments to be constructive and to reiterate that if we can provide any additional information to help Greater Shepparton City Council to finalise your Strategy, we are more than happy to provide you with this.	GB CMA	Noted
	Reporting	Section Four contains the four-year Strategy Action Plan (2014-2017) to commence achieving the Strategy's objectives. The action plan will be updated every four years as part of the Strategy review process <u>and reported against annually</u> .	Community submission 9	Amended
1. Introduction and purpose	Mission and visions	Suggest that the Mission and Vision statements (pg.21) are included upfront in this section before the list of how implementation of this strategy will improve Councils environmental performance, to help set the scene for the Draft early on in the Strategy.	GB CMA	Amended
	Wording	Add mitigation and adaptation to sentence	Community submission 9	Amended
		Assist Council to involve the community and cross-Council business units in local, regional and state sustainability goals and activities.		
		Increase the capacity and understanding of environmental sustainability issues across Council and the community.		
2. Greater Shepparton Environment	Education & awareness	I like the attempt to educate the public see "ecosystem services" which gives the "why" of our need to protect natural resources.	Community submission 1	Noted
	Environmental assets	The first part to be made is to recognise that the Dookie Hills and their environs are unique compared to the rest of the Goulburn Valley. Dookie - The soil types are different and the climate is to some extent at variance. There is a low frost prevalence excellent, almost too good natural drainage, rainfall and temperatures slightly different to the rest of the GV. Agricultural practices are also somewhat different to the rest of the region. Many of the plant species found here are unique to the district.	Community submission 3	Noted
		Assets - Regional Park and riparian zone of all rivers and creeks Dookie Bushland Reserve, Loch Garry, Gemmill's Swamp, Reedy Swamp and Victoria Park Lake. Cussen Park is bigger than Victoria Park Lake. Don't forget the thousands of street trees that Council own and road reserves.	Community submission 9	Noted
		P.5 - para 3 – "Lower Goulburn NP" (starting at Reedy Swamp). Reedy Swamp is part of LGNP	Staff 3	Noted
	General	We believe the Draft Strategy is an important first step in addressing past mistakes in relation to health of our environment and outlining future challenges that must be faced	GVEG	Noted

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		if we are to, enhance our natural environment, be open to change and best position our region for the future .		
2. Greater Shepparton Environment	Indigenous/ cultural values	Should the Greater Shepparton Environment (2) also have a paragraph or comment on Traditional Owners and importance of the region to the Indigenous population. Also do cultural values get a mention here? Yes, they are linked to environmental values but they are more than that?	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Noted
	Our region	Our region as with many are in the midst of great economic and environmental changes, which will impact not only on the wider community but also to the future well being of the Council and its' ability to provide services and remain viable.	Community submission 11	Noted
		The draft document currently out for community consultation highlights the complexity of issues to be addressed if our region is to sustain farm production and community resilience into the future.	GMLN	Noted
	Priority areas for protection and enhancement	The DESS could identify some priority areas ie Dookie Biolinks area, if the catchment wide offset project gets up where in the municipality would Shepparton target?	GB LGBRG	Noted
	Regional Catchment Strategy	Include a brief outline with Council relationship with catchment priorities in municipality – check the regional catchment strategy.	GB LGBRG	Noted
	Wording	Our natural environment has <u>in recent times</u> provided our region with clean air,	Community submission 9	Noted
		I would take the word 'granite' from page 5 and replace with Cambrian aged volcanic rocks.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
		P.5 – 2.para1 "streams" or waterways?	Staff 3	Amended
3. Principles	Decision making	GVEG supports ensuring environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning.	GVEG	Noted
	General	I like its focus on principles backed up by the ongoing actions seems to be well thought out.	Community submission 1	Noted
		The strategy contains a number of key and important words such as open, transparent,	Community	Noted

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		regular and honest engagement and they are important because the Council wishes to lead by example.	submission 11	
3. Principles	General	Time for the Council to lead and develop a multi-faceted one-stop economic “can do” business centre to wrap everything up in the one package, incorporating our economic and environmental aspirations.	Community submission 11	Noted
		This strategy will help in getting sustainable development principles into council processes and strategic thinking.	Community submission 4	Noted
		Council must embed environmental consideration in all elements and activities	Community submission 9	Included in the purpose, principles, commitment and action plan chapters.
		GML welcomes this strategy's efforts in getting sustainable development principles into councils strategic thinking and development. This is an area that still needs much work if the notion of sustainable resource use across all sectors is to be entrenched.	GMLN	Noted
	Reporting	I would like to see somewhere in the Strategy that Council policy is to report on the triple bottom line principles. Many issues can be reported on economics only and social and environmental issues barely rate, often at a greater future cost. This comment particularly applies to climate change.	Community submission 15	Council's annual report reports on all triple bottom line principles.
	Spelling	P6 – achievements spelt wrong.	Staff 3	Amended
	Sustainability	Sustainability is a very broad concept and covers many aspects of the Council’s activities and responsibilities.	Community submission 10	Noted
		Council will achieve financial savings from the implementation of many environmental sustainability <u>by definition if it is sustainable it will achieve saving actions.</u>	Community submission 9	Noted
4. Strategy development process	Consultation	I believe that hard work, future orientated thinking and strong ongoing efforts to communicate with our citizens has resulted in an excellent policy draft for the Shepparton districts future.	Community submission 1	Noted
		The process has had a strong emphasis on community input		Noted
		From the outset the Greater Shepparton City Council, Stakeholder Reference Committee members and staff must be congratulated for their foresight and professional manner in which this document has been prepared and presented.	Community submission 11	Noted
		Thank you for genuinely consulting with the Greater Shepparton community and stakeholders in developing the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	Community submission 12	Noted

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4. Strategy development process	Consultation	Thank you for preparing a “What you said” report on the community feedback and making it available for community to access. It shows that the staff of the Sustainability and Environment team genuinely takes all the views of the community and stakeholders seriously, and that the Council sincerely wants to work collaboratively with the community and stakeholders.	Community submission 12	Noted
		It has had great consultation.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted
		Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the greater Shepparton sustainability strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted
		It is heartening that this process has been so thoroughly executed by a team of dedicated people, with lots of opportunity for input and discussion by the Community.	Community submission 6	Noted
		We appreciate that the GB CMA was able to participate in the development of the Draft Strategy through the involvement of our representative on the Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee. Through this opportunity we were able to provide advice, guidance and input into the development of the draft Strategy and we look forward to continuing our good working relationship with Council to support the implementation of the ESS.	GB CMA	Noted
		We would especially like to commend you on the effort that has put into community consultation throughout the various stages of developing this strategy, and agree that this engagement has been a vital component of the Strategy's development and will be a key factor in the Strategy's long term success.	GB CMA	Noted
		GVEG congratulates Council and staff on their foresight and efforts to date in the preparation and consultation involved in the process to this point of the Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy.	GVEG	Noted
	Development process	As part of the planning committee, I am very pleased with all aspects of the progress to date.	Community submission 1	Noted
		All credit to the staff involved, and Council for supporting the process.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Special mention must go to Travis Turner who has been very visible in this process and has worked in a professional and extremely skilled way. He is part of what must be a	Community submission 6	Noted

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		great team.		
4. Strategy development process	Development process	Suggest that the various steps under each Major step of the development process are shaded in a lighter shade of the same colour (As per the same figure in the Discussion Paper). The use of different colours for the supporting processes is confusing.	GBCMA	Amended
	Steering Committee	No 4...(Strategy development process)..could YYNAC be included in the mention of key stakeholder groups.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
5. Policy Context	Legislation	Section 2 – strategic context – maybe relevant to put in here cultural legislation (Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006/ Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007) as it does influence environmental actions....and as a result YYNAC should be listed in the key agencies that will assist Council to comply with relevant legislation.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended Strategy to include YYNAC in list. Added Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 to Table 4 in the discussion paper.
6. Lifespan, reviewing reporting	Council Plan alignment	On page 9, second paragraph the point is made about reviewing the strategy to ensure relevance to and alignment with each new council plan. And further on about alignment with council plan objectives. The wording appears to be a "get out of thinking about it" free card for other plan/strategy developers. I think this is the wrong way around and all subsequent plans, strategies and documents should be aligned with this strategy. This would have the effect of ensuring that all future things have some sustainability built into them from the start. The word sustainability is an overused and abused term which probably turns some councillors off but all council activities need to be mindful of resource use, regardless of the resource.	Community submission 4	Amended
		It is noted on page 9 of the draft strategy that a review will occur regularly to ensure relevance and alignment with each new council plan. All new plans should have sustainability principles at their core, regardless of the issue being dealt with.	GMLN	Amended
		The action plan will be updated every four years as part of the Strategy review process. As part of this four year review we note the phrase “to ensure relevance and alignment with each new Council Plan”. This could be seen as a weakness in the Sustainable Environmental Strategy, a risk that protection and enhancement of the environment could be compromised.	GVEG	Amended
	General	I like its focus on principles backed up by the ongoing actions and regular reviews seems to be well thought out.	Community submission 1	Noted

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6. Lifespan, reviewing reporting	Interplan/IPM	Another view of policy implementation is that it simply goes into the mix of <u>expectations</u> that very rarely get active results. It is good to hear that this policy's focus on actions will be part of Councils requirement of section managers' roles.	Community submission 1	Noted
		6 – reporting mechanisms – strengthen paragraph 4 - What does Interplan mean ? Active/accountability.	Staff 11	Amended
	Reporting	Community should be informed annually of the improvements or otherwise of these bench marks. It may not be easy to arrive at the appropriate benchmarks but if you do not have some sort of yearly measurement reporting, the community will always say you are not doing enough.	Community submission 15	Annual reporting is an action in the strategy.
		While many environmental issues are outside the control of Council, I cannot see how the ratepayers can judge the performance of the Council from this Strategy. I am particularly concerned about the reporting of the areas in which Council has ownership.	Community submission 15	Noted
	Strategic links	I like its links to the broad Council strategy.	Community submission 1	Noted
	Wording	Please note that these <u>environmental outcomes</u> are a <u>measure of Strategy objective success</u> as opposed to the <u>key indicators/targets</u> that are listed in the action plan, which will <u>measure Strategy action plan success</u> . - confusing?	Council staff 1	Amended
7. State of our Environment	Benchmarking	If we are to move forward it is important to have clear and precise data, with accepted base lines to work from.	Community submission 11	Noted
		From a community perspective I think how environmental outcomes are agreed and accountabilities are perceived can only be judged by bench marking of KPI's. Many environmental issues take some time to show a return on investment, but if you don't record where you started from you will never be able to claim the benefits. Community should be informed annually of the improvements or otherwise of these bench marks. It may not be easy to arrive at the appropriate benchmarks but if you don't have some sort of yearly measurement reporting, the community will always say you are not doing enough.	Community submission 15	Noted
	Data	Against the "Environmental flows" environmental characteristic the comment states;"205,015ML has been delivered through GB CMA delivery via Victorian Water and Commonwealth Environment Water Holder". This is the amount delivered in 2012-2013 only.	GB CMA	Amended

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7. State of our Environment	Data	The comment against many of the environmental characteristics in this section states "Data from 2012/13". We would suggest including what the source of this data was, i.e. "Data from 2012/13 Council Annual Report" so that when the state of the environment is reviewed as part of the 4 year strategy review, you can be confident that you are benchmarking against the same data.	GB CMA	Amended
	Decision making	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This makes planning decisions that much harder, especially in uncertain economic times, and this strategy will be a valuable guide in this regard.	GMLN	Noted
8. External Drivers	Climate change	Council must respond to the practical challenges of climate change	Community submission 10	Noted
		Both the Australian Federal Government and Victorian State government have accepted Climate Change as a fact and their departments and agencies have incorporated climate change objectives, opportunities, and actions in their social, economic and environmental strategies and plans.	Community submission 11	Noted
		That COGS acknowledges that Human induced Climate Change is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate - Could be more prominent in the document as I believe it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council if we really are to be open to change and best position our region for the future.	Community submission 13	The acknowledgement is mentioned in several relevant sections.
		human induced climate change acknowledgement - Great to have this include	Community submission 5	Noted
		The rapidly advancing reality of climate change (unequivocally proved and accepted by the world's climatologists) is the reason for and should be that basis of the entire draft.	Community submission 7	Noted
		Recognition of the reality of human induced climate change - great.	Community submission 8	Noted
		Council needs to be prepared to support our community to adapt to our changing/future climate. There are going to be great opportunities to attract emerging and renewable or alternate energy industries and businesses <u>why not encourage existing ones to adapt as well</u> to our region and assist our farmers to utilise new crops.	Community submission 9	Council will be encouraging existing businesses and industries as well.
		Acknowledging Human induced Climate Change, is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on	GVEG	Noted

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		our local climate is a foundation of changing community attitudes, future planning and our ability achieve the necessary changes for future sustainability.		
8. External Drivers	General	As I see the city in a transition state from a rich, positive irrigated horticultural/agricultural centre to an uncertain future, I believe we need to look to re-inventing aspects of our prosperity and lifestyle – to do this we need an effective policy to provide security and sustainability to our city’s future.	Community submission 1	Noted
		There is a huge amount of work to be done by both the Council and our community if we are going to have a sustainable and prosperous future in the Goulburn Valley.	Community submission 17	Noted
	Housing	Policy required to reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new	Community submission 9	Council's role is to raise awareness and educate the community about residential home energy efficiency issues and opportunities.
		Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years	Community submission 9	Noted
	Peak oil	It is essential that Council works collaboratively with these industries, our community and the Australian and Victorian Governments to ensure that we are prepared as a municipality to adjust to declining oil production. <u>How is this to be done- faster rail?</u>	Community submission 9	Under "Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders" key direction for each theme. Added lobby for high speed rail to the Action Plan.
	Population growth	Our increasing population will continue to place pressure on our water and energy resources, require more land for urban development and increase the production of waste. <u>Not if we restrict the footprint of development and carry out extensive infill.</u>	Community submission 9	Noted
		Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years. Policy is required to further build on this trend, reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new.	GVEG	Noted
		The footprint of development in the COGS needs to be restricted into the future. Higher density living in the CBD and other older areas close to existing infrastructure needs to be encouraged with planning amendments.	GVEG	Noted
	Resource consumption	We are clearly using natural resources at a greater rate than they can be replenished. It is time to explore opportunities to decrease this obviously unsustainable level of consumption. Are there relevant actions associated with this need?	Community submission 9	Yes, covered under all themes and key directions.

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
8. External Drivers	Urban development	The growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres perhaps highlights this point best as valuable productive farmland is taken over for the development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up.	GMLN	Noted
	Wording	The last sentence states" There are going to be great opportunities to attract emerging and renewable or alternate energy industries and businesses to our region and assist our farmers to utilise new crops". Suggest replacing the word "utilise" with "cultivate".	GB CMA	Amended
9. Community engagement and concerns	General	Survey results documented in the Strategy from the 'Community Environment Values and Behaviours Survey 2011', show very similar results to those obtained at the University of Melbourne. This information is valuable in developing the Engagement and Communication aspects as documented in the Action Plan 2014-2017, which demonstrates clear actions to improve communications.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Wording	Page 14 – paragraph 5 - Our community supports a <u>whole (?)</u> of Council approach to improve Council's.	Community submission 5	Amended
11. Commitments	Climate change	Both the Australian Federal Government and Victorian State government have accepted Climate Change as a fact and their departments and agencies have incorporated climate change objectives, opportunities, and actions in their social, economic and environmental strategies and plans.	Community submission 11	Noted
		I believe the Strategy incorporates two fundamental points that are critical to our regions response to the many challenges we face including a sustainable natural environment. Human induced Climate Change & ensuring that environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council	Community submission 13	Noted
		Firstly, COGS acknowledges that Human induced Climate Change is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate. This acknowledgement could be more prominent in the document as I believe it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council if we really are to be open to change and best position our region for the future.	Community submission 13	The acknowledgement is mentioned in several relevant sections.
		Many issues can be reported on economics only and social and environmental issues barely rate, often at a greater future cost. This comment particularly applies to climate change.	Community submission 15	Noted
		Human induced climate change - Great to have this included	Community submission 5	Noted

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
11. Commitments	Climate change	I'm delighted with the statement in which the Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges: "Human induced climate change is occurring, is a result of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to have an impact on our local climate".	Community submission 7	Noted
		Recognition of the reality of human induced climate change - great.	Community submission 8	Noted
		Acknowledging Human induced Climate Change, is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate is a foundation of changing community attitudes, future planning and our ability achieve the necessary changes for future sustainability. GVEG believes this acknowledgement should be give more prominence in the Draft Strategy as it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council.	GVEG	This acknowledgement is within the relevant sections (key drivers, Councils commitment section) of the Strategy. Identify and prioritise climate change activities is also mentioned in the introduction and purpose chapter.
	General	"Council is embedding a culture of environmental sustainability within the organisation and has commenced integrating environmental sustainability considerations into decision-making policies and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) directives such as the Sustainability CEO Directive, Fleet CEO Directive, and the Procurement Policy." - <u>Needs to go further</u>	Community submission 9	The ESS and Action Plan will take these further.
	Leading by example	From an economic and personal point of view it is of most importance that "our" council leaders, associated consultants and staff enact "best practice" to minimise negative contributions to air, water and land quality.	Community submission 11	Noted
		Secondly is the objective to ensure environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning.	Community submission 13	Noted
		Council should be a leader	Community submission 9	Noted
	Rate rebate	I think your TfN rate rebates should be mentioned. I see the rate rebates as a council program. It shows long term commitment to biodiversity protection.	Trust for Nature	Amended
	Sustainability principles	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This effectively means that if a balance between economic, social and environment needs is to be achieved then things have to skewed towards environmental considerations until such time as there is a more even distribution of resource use and conservation.	Community submission 4	Refer to chapter 3, 7 & 11

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
11. Commitments	Urban development	The urban development and infrastructure designs that have been approved by Council in past decades may restrict the lifestyle activities and choices made by future generations. <u>Need to provide further info as unclear</u>	Community submission 9	A statement is all that is required in this section.
		Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to maximising the environmental sustainability benefits of our urban environments including sustainable building design, improving the sustainability of land developments and increase community access to public transport and active (walking and cycling) travel methods. <u>See earlier comment re redesign and strengthening of CBD.</u>	Community submission 9	Noted
	Waste targets	The strategy makes reference to the Victorian Government's landfill and resource recovery targets on page 18 and in the Action Plan, but since the change of government specific targets are not identified and therefore this section of the strategy may need to be reviewed.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Wording	This vegetation is generally in a poor ecological state and under constant threat from further degradation. The native fauna dependant on this vegetation for habitat is also under significant threat.	Community submission 9	Amended
		Split last paragraph into two sentences rather than one long sentence, to become: Council is recognised as an industry leader in regards to our waste recovery efforts in rural Victoria. Council has wonthat is being sent to landfill.	GB CMA	Amended
		Page 17...our municipalities remnant native vegetation has significant environmental value...should also state cultural value.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
12. Mission and visions	Figure 8	This figure helps explain the overarching strategic framework that has been applied to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. We would suggest that expanding this to include and define the other key components of Table 1 and the action plan; being aspirational environmental outcomes and performance indicators/targets, would help to further demonstrate the relationship between table 1and the action plan. Alternatively you could explain the definition of the terms used in a Glossary.	GB CMA	Amended
	Mission	The visions for the Strategy on page 21 are very good, but we suggest a review of the mission. It currently reads as an objective rather than a high level statement of what the Strategy will achieve.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Vision	The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of a unifying environmental framework and the vision proposed in the draft strategy.	Cussen Park Advisory	Noted

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
			Committee	
13. Strategic themes	Cultural values	Strategic themes (13) page 21...protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)...could also state cultural site protection after native vegetation offsets.		Amended
	Regional Catchment Strategy links	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity , water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
	Urban development	The growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres perhaps highlights this point best as valuable productive farmland is taken over for the development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up.	GMLN	Noted
14. Key directions	Community capacity	Empowering the community – we need to make sure that they are not doing the work for us.	Staff 10	Noted
	Compliance and enforcement	The last paragraph in this section "Lack of enforcementfor many environment related regulations" seems more like a driver as to why using planning and regulation powers is an important key direction, rather than been part of the key direction itself. Suggest removing this paragraph from here.	GB CMA	Amended
		It was good to see the commitment to using COGS regulatory powers by increasing the compliance of planning permits.	Trust for Nature	Noted
	Council capacity	Council need to increase OUR capacity to help the community//we need to be empowering Council to be able to empower the community.	Staff 10	Noted
	Council supporting the community	Achieving sustainability is a community-wide undertaking and somewhere within the plan, council should be making specific comment about its support, both morally and financially, for community groups working to help our communities understand the importance of embracing such changes to lifestyles, individually and as communities.	Community submission 7	Noted
	Education & awareness	To me the key directions (p22) are very important – public education on the issues is an ongoing need and need to be planned and resourced.	Community submission 1	Noted
		Council must work especially hard to ensure long term environmental resilience, council must commit more resources to educating residents and visitors about the ecological needs of the floodplain and associated waterways.	Community submission 4	Noted
14. Key directions	Education & awareness	General overall behaviour of public etc - There are many aspects in the community to be considered. It is the people problems that require attention (not necessarily Council's responsibility. I.e Activities for youth, after hours entertainments, alcohol, drugs etc,	Community submission 16	Environmental education and raising community awareness about how certain behaviours have negative impacts on the

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		general overall behaviour of public etc.		environment lies within the scope of the strategy. Resolving the social issues mentioned in this comment lies outside the scope of the ESS and have been forwarded to Council's Community Strengthening Branch.
	Leading by example	I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example.	Community submission 14	Noted
		It is important that local government leads by example	Community submission 4	Noted
		It is important that local government leads by example and GML welcomes this strategy's efforts in getting sustainable development principles into councils strategic thinking and development. This is an area that still needs much work if the notion of sustainable resource use across all sectors is to be entrenched.	GMLN	Noted
		Time for the Council to lead and develop a multi-faceted one stop economic “can do” business centre to wrap everything up in the one package, incorporating our economic and environmental aspirations.		Noted
	Partnerships	“Community with Council support” is the way it should always be so we are noting taking credit for the community’s efforts.	Staff 10	Noted
15. Objectives and outcomes	Aspirational outcomes	While many environmental issues are outside the control of Council, I cannot see how the ratepayers can judge the performance of the Council from this Strategy. I am particularly concerned about the reporting of the areas in which Council has ownership.	Community submission 15	Noted
		To change both the mindset of residents towards a sustainable future, and to actually achieve improvements in each of the areas listed is going to be challenging.	Community submission 17	Noted
		I am a little concerned about the term ‘aspirational’, not because the intention is not there in this Strategy, but because it is too easy for staff who don’t prioritise environmental objectives to say achieving them is too hard so not worth trying.	Community submission 17	Responsible managers will be responsible for staff who do not prioritise the implementation of relevant actions in the Strategy.

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Aspirational outcomes	I recoil somewhat from the idea of describing something as “aspirational” as that is far too easy from which to retreat from with comment such as: “That was only aspirational”.	Community submission 7	Council has no intention of retreating from any commitment outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The term aspirational has been included because Council acknowledge that even if we achieve all of the Strategy's actions, unforeseen factors that lie outside of Councils control may influence or determine if the large-scale outcomes listed in the Strategy are fulfilled.
		"These aspirational environmental outcomes will ultimately determine whether conditions in our environment have improved during the life of the Strategy". - <u>Not sure what this sentence means</u>	Community submission 9	Amended
		"The total area of high habitat and conservation value native vegetation in the municipality is increased" <u>BY SAY 10%</u>	Community submission 9	Council have identified trends to achieve, not specific targets. The statistics for many outcomes are unknown at present so a 10% increase may be an unrealistic figure.
		All projected outcomes should have targets otherwise how can you determine if the outcome has been achieved. if you cannot determine a measure to gain success you cannot develop an action. This comment applies to all themes. Maybe best to leave this section out all together if you don't have targets. The outcomes detailed don't appear to be aspirational.	Community submission 9	This chapter has been retained in the Final-Strategy. This chapter is important because it will remain as part of the Strategy throughout the review process, whereas the action plan will be replaced every four years. The action plan contains specific actions and targets to determine the success of the action plan. The aspirational outcomes are large scale environmental improvements that Council aim to achieve over the long-term life of the Strategy (16 years)
		<u>What about existing industries changing?</u>	Community submission 9	This is included in the "community" key direction.

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Aspirational outcomes	<p>As per the other five themes, we would suggest the need to add to the aspirational environmental outcomes column the two outcomes of: "The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased", and "The number of successful funding applications is increased"</p> <p>Again to make these "aspirational" environmental outcomes, (as per previous comments) we would suggest that the wording of these two outcomes could be something like:- Council is involved in effective partnership programs, and Council is successful in their funding applications</p>	GB CMA	Amended
		<p>The way that the aspirational environmental outcomes are currently worded in this table would lead the reader to believe that these will be measured against a benchmark or known starting value, in order to determine whether there has been an increase or decrease in the outcome, rather than them being aspirational environmental outcomes. For Example: "The presence of introduced pest species is decreased" if this was a measure of success the outcome would need to read something like "the presence of introduced pest species is decreased by 20% from 1999 pest species levels."</p> <p>However as our understanding is that these are "aspirational" indicators of Strategy objective success and not a "measure", more appropriate wording would be:" The municipality is free of introduced pest species"</p> <p>Another example would be instead of saying "Council's potable water consumptions is reduced" and "Council's non-potable water consumptions is reduced" (pg. 24),the aspirational environmental outcome could be worded as: "Council utilises its potable water consumption efficiently" and "Council minimises its use of non-potable water consumption".</p> <p>Suggest that Council changes the wording of the aspirational environmental outcomes in table 1, to reflect that they are aspirational outcomes as opposed to a measured outcome or alternatively put measures/targets against these.</p>	GB CMA	The aspirational environmental outcomes are not measured outcomes. They provide an description of the what we aspire to achieve from the implementation of the Strategy. The measurable outcomes are contained in the Action Plan
		GVEG has concerns with this section of the Draft Strategy. We note that key indicators/ targets listed in the action plan will measure the success of the Strategy action plans, but believe this section of the Strategy is little more than a Vision for the future and could be handled as such with a paragraph outlining this. We also believe this "vision" could be far more aspirational.	GVEG	Noted
	Biodiversity	Great goals - ambitious in regards to improving biodiversity and making change.	Trust for Nature	Noted

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Drought	Page 24 – Water resources – Drought management should be in there, considering climate change issues.	Community submission 15	Being prepared for the impacts of drought will be included in the review of the Sustainable Water Use Plan and Stormwater Management Plan
		Pg 24 – objective 3 – “and drought events”	Community submission 5	
	Leading by example	I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example.	Community submission 14	Noted
	Objectives	We would suggest that the objectives listed in Table 1 are numbered to match their corresponding objectives in the Action Plan 2014-2017 (Table 2?) on pages 29-46, to help clearly demonstrate the connection between these two tables. Many of the objectives are worded the same in the two tables, however there are instances throughout where they are not. To help further demonstrate that these objectives are the same in both tables, we would suggest that the same wording is used in both instances. For example: the objective that would be numbered as 1.2 on page 23 (second objective) reads as: "Utilise Council's planning and regulation powers to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes.", whereas the same objective 1.2 on page 30 of the action plan reads: "To regulate land use, development and amenity to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes."	GB CMA	Amended
	Omission	Whilst page 13 of the Strategy acknowledges that Council needs to be prepared to support the community to adapt to the changing climate/future climate and recognises the need to assist farmers to utilise new crops, there are no objectives in either of these two themes that relate to sustainable and/or innovative agriculture. We would suggest the inclusion of an objective that supports the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	GB CMA	Amended
	Regional Catchment Strategy	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity, water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
	Threatened species	Page 23 – ch15 Aspirational environmental outcome – the habitat available for key threatened species to utilise urban areas is increased – “more protection”	Community submission 5	Noted
	Water quality	Ob 5 – outcome 2 – change wording “increase water quality is shown by improved measurement results at key monitoring sites”	Community submission 5	Considered
	Wording	Page 23 – ch15 – objectives and outcomes – last sentence – “big sentence”	Community submission 5	Amended

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Wording	The introductory paragraph to table one notes that: "these aspirational environmental outcomes are a measure of Strategy objective success as opposed to the key indicators/targets listed in the action plan, which measure strategy action plan success". Suggest changing the wording of this sentence to: "these aspirational environmental outcomes are an indicator of Strategy objective success as opposed to the performance measures/targets listed /n the action plan which measure Strategy action plan success". It may be useful to add to the above sentence a statement that makes the link from the aspirational environmental outcomes to the action plan. Suggested wording for this sentence could be: By undertaking/implementing the actions listed in the action plan, it is assumed that this will lead to achieving the aspirational environmental outcomes.	GB CMA	Amended

Table 2: Comments received on the contents of the Action Plan

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comment	Actions/KPIs	is the Action plan measurable enough? Some targets still lacking. Improve/increase but not specific.	Staff 11	Amended
	Community	Some emphasis has been placed on securing innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses to the region, however the greatest impact on our environment can be achieved through encouragement and support to existing businesses in adapt to changes. Our community has shown a great capacity to be resilient in the face of adversity, and I believe that much more work needs to be placed in the area of leadership and promoting the “how to”, that appears to be missing in our community. Many of the associated groups and individuals have an immense knowledge and experience base with enthusiasm and desire to create these changes.	Community submission 11	Noted
	Community engagement	Survey results documented in the Strategy from the ‘Community Environment Values and Behaviours Survey 2011’ - This information is valuable in developing the Engagement and Communication aspects as documented in the Action Plan 2014-2017, which demonstrates clear actions to improve communications.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Council resources	The Strategy relies heavily on external funding, thought should be given to raising funds internally (rates) to lift environments share of the overall pie. This will give greater leverage when seeking external funding and also be needed to deal with complex climate issues that may result from climate change.	Community submission 15	Noted
	Finance	You could have an explanation of costs where appropriate at the end.	Staff 8	Noted
	General	Actions relating to GVW have been well represented.	GVW	Noted
	General	The Strategy is in some cases broad in explaining the actions to be addressed, however it also comments specifically on other Council Plans and Management Strategy’s. Which I believe is a good method of ensuring they are appropriately completed.	GVW	Noted
	Implementation	I wish to raise the question of policy implementation – the who does what, when, where and who pays! With the “action bias” of this document, it would appear that stakeholders will attempt to work towards getting improvements/rehabilitation done ie river care, water quality, weed control, revegetation, rubbish control, vermin control ie Indian Mynas, rabbits, feral cats, etc need active control measures <u>now!!</u>	Community submission 1	Noted
	Indigenous/cultural	Please also incorporated my comments into the tabled action plan where relevant.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
	Omission	Suggest adding the Municipal Catchment Coordinator position to action 6.9.1 as programs that Council currently contributes to.	GB CMA	Amended
	Partnerships	Whilst it is noted on Pg. 29 that Pg. 46 lists the partnership organisations and groups that	GB CMA	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		<p>will assist with the implementation of the Strategy, the Goulburn Broken CMA is not listed against any of the actions in the action plan.</p> <p>The Goulburn Broken CMA would like to offer to provide support and work in partnership with Greater Shepparton City Council on a number of actions, particularly those actions under the themes of:</p> <p>1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)- actions 1.1.1,1.2.1,1.2.2,1.2.3, 1.4.1 and 1.4.2.</p> <p>2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources - actions 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.2,2.5.3, 2.6.1, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3</p> <p>6. Council governance and operations- actions 6.8.1, 6.8.2,6.9.1 and 6.9.2.</p>		
General comment	Regional Catchment Strategy	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity, water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
	Reviews	Lots of reviews to occur in AP. What will come out of these is very important. Will the S&E team get the resources they need?	GB LGBRG	Noted
		Strategy seems to make reference to quite a lot of other plans which they are committing to review – the outcomes for these document reviews may not deliver much	GVW	Noted
	Stakeholders	What about naming the key partners in the action plan?	GB CMA	Noted, no room in the tables for an extra column.
		We may apply for funding but we might not get it. Change wording for all ap - apply - not receive funding. It is out of our control if we receive or not.	Staff 11	Amended
	Sustainable agriculture	Council forums on sustainable farming / biodiversity / alternative crops if your future budget allows for guest speakers to come to our region could be held at Eastbank.	Staff 20	Noted
		Need to include the sustainable agriculture project (mapping, land use etc.) too. Where in AP?	Staff 20	Amended
		There is no substantial reference to sustainable farming methods as part of the biodiversity, water use and "act locally" concepts. I think the progressive (and especially recent) issues faced by primary producers would make the time ripe for bringing this discussion forward. Sustainable farming links in with niche local markets, less travel and transport, water sustainability, environmental impact and developing markets in the products of sustainable farming. It is surprising that this conversation rarely comes up and perhaps Council could lead some community discussion on future farming methods and potential markets for produce grown sustainably.	Staff 20	Noted
	Targets	Whilst much work has gone into performance indicators and targets I would like to see more clearly defined targets that can be easily understood by the community and simply reported against.	Community submission 13	Noted
	Timelines	Perhaps time lines and return dates with achievable targets need to be in place, rather	Community	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comment	Timelines	than having short and long term goals.	submission 11	
		The Draft Strategy action plans are comprehensive, clearly identifying timelines, resource implications and who is responsible.	Community submission 13	Noted
		I have reservations about the use of vague dates for the realization of targets, such as "short term", "medium term", "long term" and "ongoing". Regarding the latter, facts should be listed to illustrate how and why something is "ongoing", and rather than short, medium and long term, actual dates should be used to focus thinking and activities and then some definitive procedure outlined, followed, the detail the success or failure in achieving whatever the goal may have been.	Community submission 7	Some good points here but Council have kept the draft strategy timelines because the explanation of these at the start of the action plan clearly sets out the years that these actions will be completed.
		It would appear that some target dates do not accord with timelines	Community submission 9	Amended
	Wording	It would be better to put the years in table	Community submission 9	Council have kept the draft strategy timelines because the explanation of these at the start of the action plan clearly sets out the years that these actions will be completed.
		The Action Plan 2014-2017 outlines the actions that Council will endeavour intends to implement over the next four years (subject to budget approval and external funding opportunities).	Community submission 9	Amended
Land & Biodiversity	Biodiversity & recreation	The actions 1.1.1& 1.1.2 etc include performance indicators/targets to: "Review current plans/strategies" and then lists those strategies due to be reviewed. We would suggest that you include the year of the current strategy i.e Roadside Management Strategy 2006 to help establish the need for a review.	GB CMA	Noted
	Compliance and enforcement	More emphasis could be given on the significance of GSCC protecting, managing and investing in sites like Cussen Park, which not only provide critical habitat for native fauna and a means to preserve biodiversity, but also acts as a focal point for community recreation and wellbeing.	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		1.2.4. The reduction of illegal activity concerning Local Laws and the Planning Scheme and the improvement of planning permit conditions by undertaking an annual audit is supported, however GVEG is calling for detailed audit of Planning Permits that include native vegetation clearing and the requirements for off-set plantings. Ideally this would be based on 10 years of works to also give an indication of current trends.	GVEG	Noted
		How will the planning department report on compliance?	Anonymous 1	This will be discussed further with the

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
				Planning Department
Land & Biodiversity	Compliance and enforcement	I am aware of property developments that have commenced before they have even been signed off ie Kialla lakes. How can they be adhering to conditions prior to having them signed off?	Anonymous 1	This will be discussed further with the Planning Department
		Planning permit conditions - Who ensures that these are adhered to? Does anyone check if these are adhered to?	Anonymous 1	This will be discussed further with the Planning Department
		LL – infringement/penalty units – not prosecution – review some stats	Staff 4	Amended
		Need to change the wording here – the aim is really to reduce the number of instances that occur in the community. – proportion would be better? Success rate. Enforcement is about resolution and education. Increase the number of successful outcomes. Decrease the number of planning breaches occurring. Local laws wording as well.	Staff 7 & 8	Amended
	Education and awareness	More emphasis could be given on the value of Cussen Park and similar assets in the region as an education resource (particular for school aged children in the region).	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		More emphasis could be given to consider ways that ecological/wetland functions, supported by sites such as Cussen Park, can be better communicated to (and understood by) the wider community.		Noted
	Cussen Park	The Committee is very pleased to see the review of the cussen park Management plan listed as a short term action in the draft strategy. We look forward to being a resource to GSCC and having an active role in this upcoming review process.		Noted
	Development and land use	The need to consider how land use and development decisions made in areas adjacent to assets like Cussen Park have a bearing on the long term viability of the asset, and also affect the extent to which aspirational environmental outcomes (such as improved connectivity between areas of native vegetation, success of weed management and litter control) can be realised.		Noted
	Firewood collection	Pleased to see this action.	Community submission 5	Noted
		Develop an annual media campaign (including a minimum circulation of four communications per year via traditional and social media avenues. <u>The importance of fallen timber should be included</u>	Community submission 9	The importance of retaining fallen timber will be included.
	Habitat loss	As well as being at risk from landowners individual trees are more vulnerable to storm, heat nutrient variation damage. We must also remember that most of the individual trees are elderly and will mostly naturally disappear over the next few decades. From a	Community submission 3	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		sustainability point of view, these individual trees maintain a limited range of wildlife eg. Large birds only, virtually no ground animals, few insects.		
Land & Biodiversity	KPI's	need to improve the wording of the KPI's	Staff 2	Amended
	Native vegetation	At present there is a war of attrition with some landholders over these trees. There has been a continuous removal of individual trees, just one here and there "accidentally".	Community submission 3	Noted
		From an agricultural point of view the production of the area revolves almost entirely around grain production. Property size and machinery size is increasing dramatically with a resultant loss of population. The large machinery has necessitated the need to reduce obstacles in the paddocks. Most internal fences have been removed and individual trees can be seen by some landholders to be a nuisance. The individual old trees in the paddocks are probably one of the reasons why negotiating with landholders and pragmatism is necessary.		Noted
		My suggestion is that we should be concentrating on the promotion and expansion of groups, drifts, and copses of trees as an alternative to trying to maintain individual trees.		Noted
		The aims of the environmental Sustainability Strategy obviously needs to be varied to take the above Dookie factors (chap 2) recognising that here we have a range of hills isolated from any other hills in the region. With these thoughts in mind we need to be prepared to merge the needs and desires of landholders on one hand and the necessity to consider sustainability on the other. Pragmatism on both sides is required to reach a settlement suitable to both sides.		Noted
		These groups of trees should be big enough to sustain a wide variety of wildlife and understory plant life. The groups of trees should be close enough to allow migration of wildlife between the groups. As a former fire-fighter I am not in favour of fallen limbs being left to build up to large quantities because of the threat of wildfire passing through causing a high fatality rate.		Noted
		Develop (an implement) a strategic corridor protection and establishment to target threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities.	DEPI	Amended
		Strategic Theme 1 - Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity) should include performance indicators/targets to focus on protection, securing and maintenance of key offsets and biodiversity/connectivity corridors.		Noted
	native vegetation removal	Over the counter offset scheme - Need to work with GBCMA and others.	Community submission 9	Council will work with the relevant stakeholders to implement Action 1.2.2

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Land & Biodiversity	Native vegetation removal	There should be a target that no native veg should be destroyed .	Community submission 9	It would be unrealistic to have a target that no native vegetation is destroyed (removed) in the City of Greater Shepparton. State Government legislation regulates the permitted clearing of native vegetation; Council is not the legislative authority. Council can work within the parameters of this legislation to work with the applicant to ensure that the quantity of vegetation is minimised (or avoided altogether) and if removed, seek the best offset outcome available.
	Offset program	Page 32 – Introduce a catchment wide offset program. Some concerns about this action with the new state government legislation. Will they be supportive? There is a need to improve the monitoring of offsets sites better (private/public).	Anonymous 3	DEPI are very supportive of this Action 1.4.1. DEPI mentioned that this is an important action to include in their submission. DEPI, GB CMA and Local Governments in the catchment have already held discussions to explore how this action could be realised.
		Develop (and implement) a strategic offset plan to target threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities.	DEPI	Amended
	Over the counter offset scheme	Page 31 – Explore the feasibility of introducing an over the counter offset scheme. – I don't like the idea of an over the counter offset scheme, when less than 2% of our native vegetation left. Would prefer Council to consider some rate relief or alternate scheme, offsets will only lead to further losses by attrition. I can see no reason why ratepayers should not be prepared to pay a little more to protect what is left of our natural environment. In many cases we maybe only talking about one or two mature trees here but they cannot be replaced by offsets for about 200-300 years. There is no shortage of land in the Goulburn Valley.	Community submission 15	State Government legislation dictates the requirements for native vegetation removed in our municipality and the offsetting of any native vegetation removed is an important component of this legislation. An over the counter offset scheme would change the approval process of planning decisions. It would however, contribute to a greater long term environmental outcomes by ensuring that offsets are protected in larger patches at more strategic locations.

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Land & Biodiversity	Parks and gardens	What about provision for the beautification and upkeep of Parkside Gardens estate and waterways. They are a disgrace at the present with rubbish in the waterways that haven't been attended to for at least 18 months.	Community submission 18	This comment was forwarded to the Recreation and Parks Team for actioning.
	Planning Scheme amendments	Introduce planning overlays that will protect strategic areas of biodiversity importance for both offsets and corridors.	DEPI	Action 1.2.1, 1.2.2
		Fees are \$700+\$900+\$800 =~\$2.5K to amend Planning Scheme	Staff 7 & 8	Amended
		Planning have a "fly in squad" who may be available to work on Action plan Planning Scheme amendments.	Staff 7 & 8	Noted
	Reporting	Page 30 – 1.2.2 Monitor and report annually to Council and the community on the quantity of native vegetation retained and removed. This is a weak comment – eventually you could lose most of our native vegetation simply by yearly attrition, as we currently have less than 2% left.	Community submission 15	Yes, our municipality may lose native vegetation via attrition but it is very important that figures surrounding tree retention and removal via the planning permit scheme is communicated to Council and the community. This will provide some accountability and raise awareness of the native removal process and provide some recognition that plans are often changed to avoid and minimise the amount of native vegetation removed.
	Rate rebate - TfN	I think your TfN rate rebates should be mentioned in the action plan. I see the rate rebates as a council program. It shows long term commitment to biodiversity protection.	Trust for Nature	Amended
	KPI's	Complete 80% of the actions identified in the Lot many kpi's. <u>Surely you intend to complete all otherwise you are planning to fail.</u>	Community submission 9	Council intends to complete all of the actions identified in this Strategy and all the other strategies and plans listed in the action plan. However, it is not realistic to expect that every single action will be achieved when some actions may be dependent on the weather, no changes to State or Federal Government legislation, landholder support, staffing numbers etc. The target of 80% is seen to be aiming fairly high but is deemed to be both

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
				achievable and realistic.
Land & Biodiversity	Shared paths	Landscaping and Native Open Space – maintain only next to the paths – not the paths themselves.	Staff 14 & 15	Noted
		Action – adequately maintain walking/shared paths..., is that if shared paths are mentioned Assets branch needs to be included too.	Staff 2	Amended
		maintaining paths – shared paths fit under the assets area.	Staff 14 & 15	Amended
		Shared paths	Staff 5	Noted
	Significant Tree Register	Page 29 – would like to see a significant rural tree register as well as the urban tree register.	Community submission 15	Amended
		Pg 29 – 1.1.2 – Maybe non-urban register as well	Community submission 5	Amended
		change to MT from LT	Staff 5	Amended
		Heritage Victoria have a State-wide significant tree register – look into what other Councils have been doing a lot in this space.	Staff 5	This will be investigated during the implementation of this action.
		Incorporate strategic planning controls as part of this. Protection of tree overlays for significant trees on public and private land. Important that both are included. Cultural and environmentally significant trees.	Staff 5	This will be investigated during the implementation of this action.
		Parks 2050 Strategy - Work with Recreation and Parks Strategic Officer to include sustainable approaches. Council, Parks Victoria etc. managed land included in scope. Read project brief.	Staff 5	Amended
	Street Tree Master Plan & Urban Character Study	Both of these are always being looked at - change to ongoing. There are some changes that will be occurring soon.	Staff 5	Amended
		new tree trials are occurring all the time - ongoing	Staff 5	Amended
		UCS is not expected to change much in the next four years	Staff 5	Noted
	Weeds & pests	If money is available the landholder should be paid to control weeds and vermin. There is a major problem as even feral trees are prevalent.	Community submission 3	Noted
		Rabbit plan – what about foxes? These could be more of an issue than rabbits. Could change it to explore the feasibility of developing an “urban pest control plan”? Explore funding opportunities to develop..... This plan would cover cats, foxes, rabbits, hares, birds (mynas).	Staff 14 & 15	Amended

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Land & Biodiversity	Weed control	Perhaps it is the nature of documents such as this, but there does seem to be a lack of firm targets or strategies. One case in point that I see as a growing problem is that of woody weeds on roadsides. In section 15, p 23 there are the aspirational outcomes that: The presence of introduced pest species is decreased & The diversity and cover of weed species is decreased - I wonder how this is to be achieved. Among the problems I see are: prunus sp., desert ash, African boxthorn, olives, Peppercorns, prickly pear, sweet briar, blackberry. I would like to suggest a plan to poison these weeds on a regular 3 or 4 year cycle on Council property, and to work constructively with Vic roads to do the same on their roadsides.	Community submission 8	Many specific on-ground implementation activities have not been included due to the high level strategic nature of the Strategy. Including this level of detail would have resulted in the Strategy being an extremely large document so Council has developed an 'implementation activity' spreadsheet that sits below the strategy and will drive the achievement of the strategy's action plan. However, some of the implementation activity specifics have been provided as a performance indicators/targets. Council has been undertaking control activities over the last couple of years on the majority of the woody weed species listed here and several are included in Council's roadside weed and pest control plan. Council acknowledge that all of the weeds listed are problematic and should be controlled but limited budget and State and Federal Government's usually our weed control priorities.
		<u>What about Caltrop eradication</u>	Community submission 9	Council actively controls any reported sightings of caltrop.
		Caltrop control plan - Does not have a specific budget but they take it out of a general ledger – for parks and nature strips.	Staff 14 & 15	Noted
		Melton Council had a weed control rate rebate. If people demonstrated that they had controlled listed weeds and had none on site they qualified for this.	Staff 14 & 15	Noted.
		Weed strategy – CNG – improved	Staff 14 & 15	Noted
		Change wording of the RWRCP. We only have funding until the next financial year, then what? Budget/funding.	Staff 14 & 15	Amended

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Land & Biodiversity	Woodlot - community	Council should discuss with GO TAFE - The GO TAFE property along Wanganui Rd has about 180 acres of land. The land cannot be sold, but is underutilised.. It might be possible to use part of their property for long-term sustainable firewood harvesting plot/woodlot. This would address long-term issues around the community's need for firewood and hopefully reduce instances of illegal collection in parks, reserves, road reserves. Could utilise planters that could do a large scale site. Water rights sold off but the water treatment plant is only next door. Could also use the site for study/education purposes – set up as a bit of a study/experiment?	Community submission 1	Amended
	Wording	The first performance indicators/targets for action 1.1.2 reads "Review of the 2017", we believe that this is a typing error and should instead read as "Review current plans/strategies". Whilst the performance indicators/targets listed under action 1.1.2 of; "review current/plans and strategies" and "develop new plans/strategies" refer to strategies that relate to actions that the Parks and Recreation branch would implement. We would suggest that the review/development of these strategies and plans listed under the two performance indicators/targets, would better fit against action 1.1.1, and then create a separate action under 1.1.2 that relates to the implementation of these plans and strategies.	GB CMA	Amended
	Warning system	Develop a risk management “environmental warning system” for outdoor works programs by 2016. <u>Council wide implementation required.</u>	Community submission 9	This will be Council-wide program.
Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Audit	Undertake an audit – EPA waterways would need to be involved. Oil/paint down drains? Mostly building site focus.	Staff 2	Amended
	Drought	Page 24 – Water resources – Drought management should be in there, considering climate change issues.	Community submission 15	Being prepared for the impacts of drought will be included in the review of the Sustainable Water Use Plan and Stormwater Management Plan
	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan is included – seems as though an inspection program is not currently in-place	GVW	Noted
		80% target is ambitious – but should be ok.	Staff 4	Noted
		Monitoring is a better word to use than inspect – change wording in AP. “monitor the compliance of septic tank.....	Staff 4	Amended

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Education & awareness	Responsibility of Sustainability & Environment <u>and other regional partners</u>	Community submission 9	Council will work with our regional partners to implement Action 2.5.4
	Monitoring use	The only thing I think could perhaps be covered more is a current gap that I believe exists in utilising our utility bills to monitor water consumption. We receive bills from our water and energy providers that has useful data on our consumption and whether or not it is increasing or decreasing. We have the data but we don't use it. This would be a valuable information tool in determining whether we are consuming (wasting) our energy & water.	Staff 18	Noted, Action 2.1.1
	Partnerships	Add - Catchment Salinity Asset Works and Community Surface Water Management programs Council partnership contributions	GB CMA	Amended
		In addition to this, (also probably irrelevant here), there is a plan to roll out the Choose Tap education program within businesses – potentially starting with GBCMA in near future, but could be extended to Council within the next 12 months.	GVW	Noted
		Possibly irrelevant but worth mentioning in a broader context - a number of drink fountains were recently erected with Council branding and 'water is a healthy option' messaging – this was an excellent partnering opportunity, to share key messages, promote our product, co-brand, but we didn't know about the project so were not able to be involved. Personally I see this as perpetuating an already confused message. Council is providing water???	GVW	Noted
		There is an objective listed regarding promotion of efficient water use – I hope the aspirational outcome of increasing partnership programs includes increasing relevant partnerships with us. This applies for 2.5.1 in particular 'Council will partner with and empower our community to reduce water use'. It makes sense that we are involved, even drive, this initiative with Council involvement – but 'partnering' in recent years has been limited to Terry Tap attending the Twilight Stroll series, and there is also occasional involvement from the River Connect representative at activities run by the GVW Education Team. I think the opportunities to do something more meaningful are being missed. So Jacinta and I look forward to contact from the relevant council group to coordinate some materials or events that push this message.	GVW	Noted, Actions 2.1.1, 2.5.1
		While the relevant parts of this draft strategy focus on water conservation I do think it's worth flagging that partnering with Council is something we could/should be doing much more regularly.	GVW	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Partnerships	How will the data be collected for reporting? – Compliance, infringements?	Staff 4	This will be discussed further with the Planning and Local Laws Departments
	Planning and Enforcement	Part 5 - Building sites – LL // community education and awareness aspects //promotional stuff.	Staff 4	Noted
	Reporting	Jobs through merit/needs to be consistent. Pathway – merit into	Staff 2	Noted
	Review of plans	We may need to change the timelines for the SWUP & SWMP. The Office of Living Victoria has a major water strategy for regional cities (potentially including Shepparton). It would be better to review our water plans after we have a better understanding of the specifics of this OLV strategy.	Staff	Noted
	RiverConnect	Explore the feasibility of constructing a Sustainability Centre as the centre point of the RiverConnect project on the bank of the River	Community submission 9	To be discussed during the RiverConnect Strategy review process.
		Investigate opportunities to engage local businesses and organisations to participate in the “adopt a reach program”.	Community submission 9	Amended
	Stormwater Management Plan	Target large stormwater outlets into River - eg behind Council Offices- for reuse - New Govt initiative through OLV	Community submission 9	Noted, Action 2.2.2
		There is currently no agreement with, or even advice to, councils regarding observation of the Permanent Water Saving Rules. Adherence to these rules (namely using sprinklers after 6pm, before 10am) should be noted as a way that they can both lead by example and also reduce water consumption – this applies even if non-potable water is being used to water parks and gardens (example is about perception, and they list reduction of both potable and non-potable water as aspirational outcomes)	GVW	Noted, Action 2.1.1
	Service plans	Council should also be driven by our Organisation’s service planning through consultation with the community. For example – Rec & Parks water all reserves during Summer. Proper service planning may identify that the community are happy for certain reserves not to be watered during summer – thus conserving water. I think this is an important aspect that should be incorporated into the action plan (i.e. stakeholder consultation leading to potential savings).	Staff 18	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Energy Efficiency & Climate Change	Alternate & renewable energy	Are we “The Solar City” or are we not?	Community submission 11	Noted
		Page 36 – Climate change and energy efficiency – promote the use of solar panels – agree with this but we are the “solar city” and we should go further and explore the value of a large community solar grid.	Community submission 15	Action 3.3.1
		Concentrate on developing GV Link site with businesses that use closed loop material or other energy efficient processes	Community submission 9	Action 3.3.1
		KPI - 3.3.1 - Why not assist existing business to develop alternative businesses		Noted
		Promote solar PV panels to increase community use. <u>And large scale PV as well</u>		Noted
		Provide support and assistance to the Tatura Community Energy Project.		Amended
	Alternate energy & up-cycling	GVEG believes waste streams in our region are a valuable resource and as such should be utilised or processed to obtain valuable energy and products.	GVEG	Noted
	Climate change	Change to develop and implement a climate change <u>mitigation</u> & adaptation plan	Community submission 9	Mitigation activities will be included in the Energy Management Plan (3.1.1)
		Provide links on Council Web site to site with Climate Change awareness info.		Implementation of Action 3.5.2
		Whilst page 13 of the Strategy acknowledges that Council needs to be prepared to support the community to adapt to the changing climate/future climate and recognises the need to assist farmers to utilise new crops,there are no objectives in either of these two themes that relate to sustainable and/or innovative agriculture. We would suggest the inclusion of an objective that supports the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	GB CMA	Amended
		The climate change section seems a bit sparse. Are we looking at innovative ways to not only reduce emissions but to deal with the symptoms and likely crucial issues occurring in the “now” and near future? Does this link in with urban design and planning? I may have missed this bit by scanning the document.	Staff 20	The Energy Management Plan (3.1.1) and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (3.2.1) will include innovative ways to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Urban design and new developments are included in Theme 5 - Sustainable development, planning and transport.
	Community energy projects	Some emphasis has been placed on securing innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses to the region, however the greatest impact on our environment can be achieved through encouragement and support to existing businesses in adapt to changes. Our community has shown a great capacity to be resilient in the face of	Community submission 11	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
		adversity, and I believe that much more work needs to be placed in the area of leadership and promoting the “how to”, that appears to be missing in our community.		
Energy Efficiency & Climate Change	Community energy projects	Provide support and assistance with the development of Tatura's energy descent plan.	Community submission 9	Amended
		Power down project – check out and perhaps include in the ESS AP. Household assessment. CE community energy – Council are a project consortium partner – 31/652/0016. Council involvement – in-kind time - linking in with the different groups and promotion (website etc.). C13/3471 0 check out the content of this letter – perhaps include in ESS.	Staff 10	Amended
		The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
		Explore the feasibility of developing an energy efficient house	Staff 3	Amended
		GV Community Energy – home energy assessment project	Staff 6	Amended
	Energy efficient buildings	I would also like to see some stronger wording around energy efficient buildings, for both Council and residents. I would support council implementing stricter controls on building standards. E.g. All new council buildings will have above required energy star ratings. No exceptions. Trade off e.g. art installations for solar panels if budgets are tight and explain why. New developments same deal. The recent heatwaves have shown how important housing design is, health of residents in badly designed houses in a blackout can have fatal outcomes. It is also about health.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Building services are satisfied with the content of 3.4.1	Staff 9	Noted
	Energy management	The only thing I think could perhaps be covered more is a current gap that I believe exists in utilising our utility bills to monitor water consumption. We receive bills from our water and energy providers that has useful data on our consumption and whether or not it is increasing or decreasing. We have the data but we don't use it. This would be a valuable information tool in determining whether we are consuming (wasting) our energy & water.	Staff 18	Noted, Action 3.1.1
		It would be great to have Eastbank, Welsford Offices and the DRC considered as sites for setting an example through introducing innovative ideas (e.g. solar panels, recycling targets, new technologies.) Tracking and reporting on innovative ideas and monitoring the outcomes (such as reduced energy usage) could not only set an example for the community but be used as a basis to share information and prior research with other	Staff 20	Investigated under Actions 3.1.1, 3.5.1, 3.6.1

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Energy Efficiency & Climate Change		Councils.		
		No mention of the previous Energy Audit. This audit provides key information on how to reduce greenhouse emissions and reduce use of utilities. It also has some “quick fix” items that could be implemented early to get the ball rolling.	Staff 20	New energy audits will be conducted as part of the Energy Management Plan development process (Action 3.1.1)
	Green loans	Develop green loans for PV installation on all buildings and other projects eg LED lights.	Community submission 9	Will be discussed during the development of the Energy Management Plan. Council's role is presently seen as encourage, support, raise awareness and educate.
	Partnerships	Why not develop and relationship with GV Community Energy	Community submission 9	Action 3.7.1
	Urban development	With planning can we make it mandatory to increase energy rating and for planners /developers have to create low energy use buildings/orientation etc.	Community submission 5	Council's role is to promote and encourage. Energy star ratings are set by the State Government and Council does not have the ability to change them.
Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Waste	Hard waste	Page 26 – Would like Council to consider two hard rubbish pick up days a year. I know this comes at a cost, but there is a cost to someone for picking up all the rubbish dumped in reserves and streams.	Community submission 15	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
		Hard waste collection - would decrease dumping and landfill with people collecting others unwanted goods which would then remain in use in the community.	Community submission 2	
	Paperless office target	Target is 80% paperless. Library new project will result in even less storage for Council. Information Management Strategy (M10/7154). Some legislative requirements state that we need to keep paper copies of certain documents, but there are moves to change these. Improve wording of KPI - Continue to implement the Information Management Strategy to achieve Council's 80% paperless office target.	Staff 2	Amended
	Plastic bag ban	Many local government areas have banned the use plastic bags, we see no reason this could not be considered by COGS.	GVEG	Council's role to educate and raise the community's awareness of the quantity of plastic bags going to landfill and the harm they cause to the environment. We would Support community

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
				groups/community town committees that want to go down this path.
Waste	Reporting	Jobs through merit/needs to be consistent. Pathway – merit into	Staff 2	Noted
	Rubbish dumping	We need to work out the costs of rubbish dumping across the municipality – LNOS, Mark little, PV and others.	Community submission 2	Amended
		Discourage the practice of Monitor and tracking is important for locations where prevalent. Number of prosecutions – try to avoid this kind of wording. Increase compliance and prevention of the need for enforcement.	Staff 2	Amended
		Education is a big component – for community and officers. EPA have invited council officers to attend illegal rubbish dumping enforcement training (2014/16818). Stronger operational – clearly defined process to work through.	Staff 2	Noted
		I would be interesting to find out what rubbish is being dumped. Because we could then do a promotion about certain waste items to the transfer station.	Staff 21	Noted
	Targets	The waste management targets seem quite broad – it's not clear as to how they are going to achieve some of the municipal waste reduction objectives	GVW	Noted
		There is no specific waste target mentioned - need to include.	Staff 11	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
		Once targets are included in the overall document the metrics used can be benchmarked with similar organisations. For example on page 38 the action plan references volume of waste diverted from landfill whereas other similar organisations may use mass.	University of Melbourne	Noted
		The strategy makes reference to the Victorian Government's landfill and resource recovery targets on page 18 and in the Action Plan, but since the change of government specific targets are not identified and therefore this section of the strategy may need to be reviewed.	University of Melbourne	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
	Up-cycling/ alternate energy	Consideration needs to given to mining all waste to obtain high value resources?	Community submission 9	Noted
		GVEG believes waste streams in our region are a valuable resource and as such should be utilised or processed to obtain valuable energy and products.	GVEG	Amended

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Sustainable development, planning and transport	Bus interchange	check wording of Maude St redevelopment - *add subject to funding	Staff 7&8	Amended
	Community gardens	Promote urban gardens	Community submission 9	Noted, Parks 2050 Strategy
		Working action – encourage/awareness/website/factsheets? - reword - who will be responsible for this? Community? S&E? Active living?	Staff 11	Amended
		KPI for Active Living not neighbourhoods.	Staff 6	Amended
	Council staff travel	Increase the number of Council staff commuting to work (or work related activities) via walking, cycling or car-pooling. Why not set a target say 20% by 2016	Community submission 9	The Sustainable Working Group may set a specific target for this KPI
		Promote ride to work day - to all council staff (happens in October)	Staff 21	Noted, Action 5.2.2
		Council could develop a "Green Travel Plan"	Staff 3	Discuss with Strategic Planning Team
	Cycling Strategy	Cycling Strategy – funding amounts – Add in that we will use the BiXE Victorian Regional Zone Benchmark.	Staff 19	Amended
	Environmental Sensitive Design	planning and reg – “is this for buildings??”	Community submission 5	Theme 3 includes building energy efficiency, Theme 5 includes developments and infrastructure.
		Check ESD principles - Moreland Energy project	Staff 7&8	Noted
	Fleet	an action for works not Prop. & Procurement	Staff 12	Amended
	Freight and rail	Rail-freight is no longer able to satisfy freight demand (levels of service/costs) so more road transport being used. Meeting rail freight infrastructure is a State Gov responsibility so we have an advocacy role here to improve.	Staff 19	Amended
		The Peak Oil Strategy needs to be aligned with the Freight and Land Use Strategy.	Staff 19	Noted
		Freight and land Strategy - This includes some costings.	Staff 7&8	Noted
	Funding opportunities	The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
	Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre (GV Link)	The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
	Home grown food	Work with schools and give them plants so they can take them home to plant. This would be aiming to get parents to grow veggies at home. (organise this in spring time)	Staff 21	Noted

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Sustainable development, planning and transport	Urban development	I would also like to see some stronger wording around energy efficient developments for both Council and residents. I would support council implementing stricter controls on development standards. The recent heatwaves have shown how important development design is. It is also about health.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Some examples of the need for improvement in this regard are the growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres and the recent development of Benalla Road. The development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up is clearly unsustainable. Try accessing shops along Benalla Road without a car and it will become clear that the ongoing energy requirements to access these shops is clearly unsustainable.	Community submission 4	Noted
		All developers of land should plan for bike paths. In an ideal world, all children should be able to safely walk or ride to school.	Community submission 5	Noted
		What about more stringent planning for housing estates and developers – all estates should have green corridors and bike paths	Community submission 5	Noted
		The planning Scheme should prevent any increase in the footprint of development	Community submission 9	Sits within the scope of the Rural Land Use Strategy, the Housing Strategy and the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.
		The footprint of development in the COGS needs to be restricted into the future. Higher density living in the CBD and other older areas close to existing infrastructure needs to be encouraged with planning amendments. Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years. Policy is required to further build on this trend, reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new.	GVEG	
DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Council Governance and operations	Advisory committee	Advisory committee - very good opportunities for sharing ideas – just as important for others to give information on what they do as what we are doing.	GB LGBRG	Noted
		I also feel a need to include all stakeholders several times per year to informally review how the broad policy implementation is going – we are all stakeholders and need to support each other in our efforts. Council leadership should set this in motion. Most partners ie CMA, parks Vic etc. Have their own agenda but need to accept that all environmental agencies should communicate and assist the broad policy implementation.	Community submission 1	Noted

DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Council Governance and operations	Advisory committee	GB CMA appreciate that we were able to participate in the development of the Draft Strategy through the involvement of our representative on the Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship with Council to support the implementation of the ESS. Synergies in both the ESS and RCS will enable us to work together to achieve the outcomes of both the ESS and RCS.	GB CMA	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA supports action 6.8.1;"the formation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee" and we would hope that we would have a representative on this committee, as we did for the Stakeholder Reference Committee, to continue to support Council in the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
		GVEG supports and would like to be involved in a Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee.	GVEG	Noted
		Perhaps could be something regarding maintaining/improving traffic flow (in conjunction with VicRoads?) to limit emissions etc and/or highlight cooperation with all agencies (us, DEPI, CMAs etc) that would also be beneficial on the Native Veg and pest/weed control side?	VicRoads	Noted
	Communication	Need to make sure that our material is accessible to CALD/ multicultural community – important to remember – factsheets, signs – translate etc.	Staff 6	Noted
	Compliance & Enforcement	There is a need to get Planning, Building, Local laws, Env. Health, S&E all together and discuss who is responsible but also who has the greatest potential to maximise positive outcomes. Which legislation/act fits best? How can we all work together to maximise the chances of ending up with the best outcome/finding the most effective solutions? Action – to establish clearly defined boundaries. The fines often do not add up - \$200 but it costs \$2k to clean up etc.	Council staff 2	Amended
		Water quality - Building sites – building services are out and about looking at things – can they check on these things too?	Staff 4	Noted
	Culture	Key Directions – Including organisation culture is very good/very important. Not just training for S&E staff – whole of organisation.	GB LGBRG	Noted, Action 6.3.1
	Datashare agreements	Likewise, the Goulburn Broken CMA would be happy to assist with action 6.8.2 "work with stakeholders to improve the quality of environmental data for the CoGS	GB CMA	Noted
		Some GIS data information sharing targets could be quite useful for GVW	GVW	Noted

DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Council Governance and operations	Decision making	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This effectively means that if a balance between economic, social and environment needs is to be achieved then things have to be skewed towards environmental considerations until such time as there is a more even distribution of resource use and conservation. This means council must work especially hard to ensure long term environmental resilience. This will mean making decisions that many will not like and it will mean council must commit more resources to educating residents and visitors about the ecological needs of the floodplain and associated waterways.	Community submission 4	Noted
		The word sustainability is an overused and abused term that probably turns some councillors off but all council activities need to be mindful of resource use, regardless of the resource.	Community submission 4	Noted
		It is hoped that this environmental sustainability strategy will also guide future decision makers as they deal with waste management, transport, development and social issues.	GMLN	Noted
		GVEG supports ensuring environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning.	GVEG	Noted
	Procurement	Change property and procurement to just Procurement. Procurement now sits under corporate performance.	Staff 12	Amended
	Project management	IPM not prince 2 anymore/ Interplan	Staff 11	Amended
	Reporting	The idea of reporting against these actions is a great one, but I would also like to see some way of residents being able to see why actions were not achieved. Let the staff who hold back the actions through budgets, differing priorities etc be accountable to the community.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Need to develop reporting system - High level	Community submission 9	Reporting will utilise Council's existing reporting system.
	Resources	Policy implementation via “actions” need resources – staff and financial – to make it happen. A basic allocation backed up by vigorous grant application seems needed.	Community submission 1	Noted
		Given the amount of work it will take to work through these actions, I think the most important actions of the entire document are to provide the Sustainability and	Community submission 17	Noted

DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
		Environment Department with additional resources (staff and funding), otherwise most of these actions will not be realised.		
Council Governance and operations	Sustainability	Sustainability is recognised across the organisation as a priority.	Staff 6	Noted

Acronyms

Birdlife MG - Birdlife Murray Goulburn (Regional)

CES – Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (State)

CPAC - Cussen Park Advisory Committee (Local)

DEPI – Department of Environment and primary Industries (State)

DHS – Department of Human Services (State)

DIICCSRTE – Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science Research and Tertiary Education (Federal)

DPCD - Department of Planning and Community Development (State)

DSEWPac -De Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Federal)

DTPLI - Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (State)

EPA - Environment Protection Authority (State)

GB CMA - Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Regional)

GBGA - Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (Regional)

GB LGBRG - Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group (Regional)

GMLN - Goulburn Murray Landcare Network (Regional)

G-MW - Goulburn-Murray Water (Regional)

GVEG – Goulburn Valley Environment Group (Regional)

GVW - Goulburn Valley Water (Regional)

GB WQWG - Goulburn Broken Water Quality Working Group (Regional)

IDM Group (Infrastructure Design Manual) (State)

LaBIF - Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum (Regional)

MAV - Municipal Association of Victoria (State)

MDBA - Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Federal)

NRWMPP - Northern Region Water Monitoring Partnership Program (Regional)

PV – Parks Victoria (State)

Resource GV – Resource Goulburn Valley (Regional)

SV - Sustainability Victoria (State)

TfN – Trust for Nature (Regional)

VicRoads - State

UoM - The University of Melbourne

YYNAC – Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (Regional)

VECCI - Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (State)