



Future Proofing Geelong

Sustainability Covenant



Sustainability covenant

This sustainability covenant is a voluntary agreement between the Greater Geelong City Council, Environment Protection Authority, Barwon Region Water Corporation, Deakin University, the Committee for Geelong, the Geelong Chamber of Commerce and the Geelong Manufacturing Council to work together to protect the environment and to contribute to a more sustainable Victoria.

This voluntary SUSTAINABILITY COVENANT is a statutory agreement under section 49AA of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* ('the Act') made on the 12th day of May 2011

between:

Greater Geelong City Council ('City of Greater Geelong') (ABN 18 374 210 6 72) of 30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

-and-

Environment Protection Authority ('EPA Victoria' or 'EPA'), ABN 85 899 617 894, a body corporate incorporated pursuant to the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Victoria), of 200 Victoria Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053

-and-

Barwon Region Water Corporation ('Barwon Water') (ABN 86 348 316 514) of 61-67 Ryrie Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

-and-

Deakin University (ABN 56 721 584 203) of 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

-and-

Committee for Geelong (ABN 72 571 378 954) of Level 2, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

-and-

Geelong Chamber of Commerce (ABN 93 448 204 638) of 69-71 Moorabool Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

-and-

Geelong Manufacturing Council (ABN 16 089 510 529) of 82 Brougham Street, Geelong in the State of Victoria

in which:

The parties commit to working together to foster sustainability through the facilitation and promotion of integrated environmental, economic and social sustainability activities.

EPA believes that this sustainability covenant will be effective in improving resource use efficiency and reducing ecological impacts across the City of Greater Geelong, and as such is a signatory to this sustainability covenant.

This partnership will assist the City of Greater Geelong to take a leadership position in Victoria to foster partnerships with other government agencies, the private sector and community. This covenant will bring communities and governments together to identify and implement priority sustainability opportunities relevant to the region.

In addition, this sustainability covenant will provide a platform to harness the disparate sustainability efforts into a cohesive framework.

The covenant period is 3 years from the date of signing.

Objectives and focus of the Sustainability Covenant

For the purposes of this covenant, the term sustainability encompasses environmental, social and economic dimensions. The intent of this covenant is to support greater Geelong to become nationally recognised as a city demonstrating sustainable leadership.

Overall objectives

- Enhance relationships between local government, state government, community and industry to advance the sustainability of the city
- Engage local industry and community to help implement actions identified in specific sustainability areas, such as the Low Carbon Growth Plan for Greater Geelong
- Attract investment and jobs in cleaner technology to greater Geelong
- Support greater Geelong to become a leader in integrating sustainability considerations into key organisational operations (including planning, strategy and supply chain)
- Reduce duplication and align integrated sustainability (water, waste, energy) activities in greater Geelong under one collaborative umbrella
- Develop greater Geelong as a showcase of a community transitioning to a low carbon economy
- Establish agreement regarding a city-wide Sustainability Indicators Framework
- Promote “Future Proofing Geelong” as the primary aggregation brand for sustainability initiatives in greater Geelong
- Increase the protection of the greater Geelong local environment through enhanced collaboration between EPA, the City of Greater Geelong and the other parties to this Covenant across a range of operational issues including planning, compliance and working with small and medium businesses (SME) and any other items as deemed appropriate.

First phase of the Covenant

The first phase of the Covenant, with a duration of 1 year, will focus on the following activities as agreed to in the Year 1 Commitment Schedule.

Year 1 Deliverables	
Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalised Year 1 Commitment Schedule ● A Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong ● A prioritised action plan with nominated accountabilities and funding requirements ● An implementation strategy for the Low Carbon Growth Plan for Greater Geelong ● A review and assessment of sustainability initiatives currently in progress that identifies gaps and opportunities ● Secure commitment from the signatories of this covenant to a sustainability indicators framework ● Direction regarding other priority cross-organisational sustainability strategies ● An integrated “Future Proofing Geelong” communications and marketing plan ● A network for greater Geelong businesses and community to collaborate on sustainability issues and opportunities ● A project plan for Years 2 & 3 of this covenant
Establish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geelong Sustainability Covenant Advisory Board to provide strategic oversight of the implementation of this Sustainability Covenant ● Future Proofing Geelong Cross-organisational Working Group to operationalise the activities arising out of this Sustainability Covenant ● Geelong Business and Industry Reference Group; including platform for Small and Medium (SME) size organisations to engage with and represent business and industry interests in the implementation of this Sustainability Covenant ● Geelong Community Reference Group to engage with and represent community interests in the implementation of this Sustainability Covenant ● An agreement regarding a city-wide Sustainability Indicators Framework to benchmark, measure and track sustainability across the city over time

Second phase of the Covenant

The second phase of the Covenant will have a duration of 2 years.

Year 2 & 3 Deliverables

- To be determined upon review of Year 1 progress and emerging information.
- The Covenant Advisory Board will be responsible for managing this process.

Greater Geelong City Council is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by Greater Geelong City Council in this agreement.

EPA is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by EPA in this agreement.

Barwon Water is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by Barwon Water in this agreement.

Deakin University is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by Deakin University in this agreement.

The Geelong Manufacturing Council is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by the Geelong Manufacturing Council in this agreement.

The Committee for Geelong is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by the Committee for Geelong in this agreement.

The Geelong Chamber of Commerce is accountable and responsible for the commitments made by the Geelong Chamber of Commerce in this agreement.

Management of the covenant

Governance

A Covenant Advisory Board will be established to oversee implementation of the covenant, available to meet regularly (eg quarterly) to review progress on the covenant and key risks and opportunities that may affect the success of the covenant. The Covenant Advisory Board will consist of:

City of Greater Geelong	EPA Victoria	Barwon Region Water Corporation
Mayor Councillor Councillor Councillor CEO Executive Officer Sustainability Covenant Project Manager	Chairman or CEO Manager South West Region Sustainability Covenant Project Manager	Managing Director
Deakin University	Geelong Chamber of Commerce	Geelong Manufacturing Council
Deputy Vice Chancellor Research	President or Executive Officer	Executive Officer or Chairman
Committee for Geelong	Sustainability Victoria*	Department of Sustainability and Environment*
Chairman or Executive Director		

*These organisations are not signatories to this Covenant but are key government partners with EPA. They may participate on an 'as needs' basis.

Other parties may be added to the Covenant Advisory Board as deemed appropriate by the parties to this Covenant.

The Covenant Advisory Board will review the covenant and progress with implementation annually and provide recommendations.

The Covenant Advisory Board will appoint its own chairperson and decide its own meeting procedures and terms of reference, including program governance and reporting requirements.

The broader structure for how the Covenant will operate is outlined in the diagram below.

Each group will be required to report annually to the Covenant Advisory Board on outcomes and progress.

As part of this Covenant, each signatory agrees to assign a representative to actively participate in the "Future Proofing Geelong" Program Working Group, which will be the primary vehicle for facilitating the delivery of this Covenant. The terms of reference and governance framework will be defined collaboratively upon the commencement of this agreement.

Future Proofing Geelong Program Sustainability Covenant Delivery Framework



Life of the covenant

The life of this Sustainability Covenant will be three years from the date of signing.

More information

In accordance with section 49AC(b) of the Act, the parties will ensure that this covenant is readily accessible to the public and that it is published on the internet.

In accordance with section 49AC(c) of the Act, the parties authorise the copying of all or any part of the covenant by any person who wishes to do so. The parties also authorise the use by such a person of any copies made by the person.

City of Greater Geelong	EPA Victoria	Barwon Region Water Corporation
30 Gheringhap Street, Geelong Vic 3220 Ph: 5272 5272 Fax:: 5272 4277 www.futureproofinggeelong.com www.geelongaustralia.com	200 Victoria Street Carlton GPO Box 4395QQ Melbourne Vic 3001 Ph: 03 9695 2722 Fax : 9695 2610 www.epa.vic.gov.au	61-67 Ryrie Street, Geelong Vic 3220 Ph: 1300 656 007 www.barwonwater.com.au
Deakin Universtiy	Geelong Chamber of Commerce	Committee for Geelong
1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong Vic 3220 Ph: 5227 1100 www.deakin.edu.au	69-71 Moorabool Street, Geelong, VIC 3220 Ph: 5222 2234 Fax: 5222 2235 www.geelongchamber.com.au	Level 2, 1 Gheringhap Street, Geelong Vic 3220 Ph: 5227 8075 Fax: 5227 8076 www.committeeforgeelong.com.au
Geelong Manufacturing Council		
82 Brougham Street Geelong Vic 3220 PO Box 638 Geelong Vic 3220 Ph: 5223 2999 Fax: 5221 2914 www.geelongmanufacturingcouncil.com.au		

Acknowledgements

The parties to this Covenant would like to acknowledge the funding contribution of the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Sustainability Victoria in the development of the Low Carbon Growth Plan for Greater Geelong.

EXECUTED as a deed.

THE COMMON SEAL of the **Greater Geelong City Council** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

CR JOHN MITCHELL
Mayor
Greater Geelong City Council

THE COMMON SEAL of **Barwon Region Water Corporation** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

MICHAEL MALOUF
Managing Director
Barwon Region Water Corporation

The COMMON SEAL of the **Environment Protection Authority** was duly affixed by:

CHERYL BATAGOL
Chairman
Environment Protection Authority Victoria

THE COMMON SEAL of **Deakin University** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

PROF ROGER HORN
Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor Research
Deakin University

THE COMMON SEAL of the **Committee for Geelong** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

PETER DORLING
Executive Director
Committee for Geelong

THE COMMON SEAL of **Geelong Manufacturing Council** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

DAVID PEART
Executive Officer
Geelong Manufacturing Council

The COMMON SEAL of the **Geelong Chamber of Commerce** was affixed to this document in accordance with its constitution in the presence of:

BERNADETTE UZELAC
Executive Officer
Geelong Chamber of Commerce

