



2022/23

Annual Report



Committee for
GIPPSLAND



Acknowledgement of Country

The Committee for Gippsland acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognise their continuing connection to the land, water, air and sky; culture and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge the region for Committee for Gippsland's Annual Report is of the Gunaikurnai, Bunurong, Wurundjeri, and Taungurung Nations as well as other Traditional Owner Groups in Victoria who are not formally recognised.

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A Message from the Chair & CEO



We are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report for the Committee for Gippsland's (C4G) 13th year in operation. We are immensely proud of the work we are delivering with the support of our members and working with our regional stakeholders to drive positive outcomes.

In 2023, we were pleased to host Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Hon Kristy McBain at the launch of the refreshed Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan (GFIMP). We partnered with the Regional Development Australia Gippsland Committee to review and update the Master Plan through engaging heavily with industry and local governments to understand the freight challenges and opportunities for investment. GFIMP offers a roadmap to strengthen infrastructure of Gippsland's roads, rail, air, and seaports, which in turn will bolster the future of our economy.

As our region continues to transition towards a clean energy future regional collaboration is essential. In August the Committee for Gippsland, together with the Committee for the Hunter, facilitated a Gippsland delegation of industry and regional leaders to visit the Hunter Valley to build networks and better understand the opportunities for regional transformation through transition. This was an important visit that highlighted the wider connections established by the Committees for network.

Continuing to develop our local leadership capacity is vital, and our Gippsland Community Leadership Program continues to build the confidence and skills of emerging leaders across Gippsland. It has been a pleasure to welcome Erika McInerney into the role of Program Manager and see the positive impact the program is having on participants and the region. As part of our Gippsland Annual Leadership Address, it was fantastic to partner with TAFE Gippsland in hosting 2023 Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt, as an inspirational keynote speaker. Thank you to all our program partners in supporting this important program.

During the year we also launched the Gippsland Hydrogen Roadmap, with former chief scientist and author Dr. Alan Finkel AC. This important piece of work highlights Gippsland's natural advantages, extensive infrastructure and existing skilled workforce, and the opportunity for our region to take the lead in establishing a clean hydrogen industry. Our launch was complimented by the success of Gippsland's New Energy Conference, which we were proud partners of, drawing national and global investment interest to our region.

Thank you to our retiring Board Directors including Loretta Willaton, Michelle Brooker and Elena Kelareva. The Board and organisation greatly appreciate your dedication and commitment to the Committee for Gippsland and the wider region over many years.

As we look to the year ahead, the Committee for Gippsland will be delivering a new strategic plan and we encourage our members to engage, provide your input and expertise to ensure the region is best placed to secure a positive future.

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to our members for all their support over the years and welcome our new members in helping to influence and drive a positive future for Gippsland.

Rochelle Wrigglesworth and Tony Cantwell

Committee for Gippsland Board Members

Rochelle Wrigglesworth

Committee for Gippsland Chair
C4G Chair Of Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee



Rochelle is a member of the Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and New Zealand, and a Registered Company Auditor with ASIC.

After working at PwC (Pricewaterhouse Coopers) and being a Principal/partner at Crowe Horwath for many years, Rochelle co-founded ForeFront (previously known as DMG Audit and Advisory) and has been providing business plus strategic advice, virtual CFO, and audit services since 2013.

Rochelle lives in Gippsland, with her family, is passionate about helping the community and contributing towards the future prosperity of our region. She has a deep understanding of the Gippsland region's specific issues

and a detailed knowledge of local government, health, education and water sectors, plus aged care, gaming, manufacturing, aboriginal, and not-for-profit entities having worked with these sectors for over 20 years. Rochelle is also committed to the success of small to medium size businesses in the region and enjoys assisting entrepreneurial and start up entities.

Rochelle is the Chair of the Board of the Committee for Gippsland and the Chair of the Financial, Audit and Risk Committee. She is also an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria.

Sean Dignum

Committee for Gippsland Deputy Chair



Sean is Principal of the advisory firm SDA Strategic and has extensive experience in public affairs and reputation risk management. He has specific expertise in advising government, boards and CEOs during issues containment, crisis management, policy implementation, service disruption, industrial disputation, and organisational restructuring.

Sean's firm, SDA Strategic, has supported tenders and contract negotiations, project development and assessment, community outreach and construction for many major infrastructure projects.

In the area of policy formulation and implementation, Sean has overseen the introduction of diverse regulatory and service changes in employment and workplace relations,

health and energy. As a Member of the Risk Management Institute of Australia, he regularly addresses diverse business and professional forums.

Sean has a deep commitment to community service, with extensive experience as an appointed or volunteer member of diverse boards and committees in health, youth, business and environment. As a primary producer in West Gippsland, he is also a strong advocate for sustainable farming and sensible land management.

Leigh Kennedy

Board Member



As an executive with 20 years of international leadership experience, spanning five continents, Leigh is acknowledged for her proficiency in strategy, research and planning, consulting, communications, and analytics.

Leigh has previously worked with consulting firms Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Accenture and British bank, Standard Chartered. After serving approximately four years as Gippsland Regional Director for Regional Development Victoria, Leigh joined Federation University in March 2019.

As Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor, Engagement, Leigh is responsible for leading a team of senior professionals and

academic staff to build strategic engagement across the Federation University footprint, with a focus on industry engagement in key sectors.

Leigh is passionate about Gippsland, having grown up in Latrobe Valley. Leigh has a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from Monash University and an Executive MBA (Distinction) from Bayes Business School (previously CASS Business School), City University London.

Lisa Gooding

Board Member



Lisa has extensive experience in energy and climate change policy. She brings to the Committee for Gippsland more than 15 years' expertise advising government and industry, delivering structural economic reforms, and creating growth opportunities for businesses.

Lisa is a fourth generation Gippslander who grew up in the Latrobe Valley and knows firsthand the challenges facing the region. She is passionate about collaborating with stakeholders to generate sustainable economic opportunities for Gippsland and improving their living standards. Lisa has previously worked for the Australian

Public Service before serving as an Energy Adviser to the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy.

She contributed to Australia's first national emissions trading scheme and has provided strategic advice on Australia's Energy Policy. She has a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in economics, and worked as the Director of Energy Policy at the Business Council of Australia before joining Energy Australia in 2015, where she led the Policy and Government Relations Team and is now the Yallourn Transition Leader.

Erin Coldham

Board Member



Erin Coldham is the Chief Development Officer at Star of the South – Australia's most advanced offshore wind project, proposed to be located off the Gippsland coast.

Erin brings decades of experience in major project planning and delivery and currently oversees Star of the South's development activities, working with industry, regulators, policy-makers and local communities to bring offshore wind to Gippsland and the State of Victoria. Erin has previously held leadership positions within the Victorian public sector and private consulting.

In her current role, Erin is part of a global team of offshore wind specialists representing more than 30 nationalities, delivering for one of the world's largest green energy fund managers, Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners.

Erin is passionate about driving positive economic, community, business and environmental outcomes for the Gippsland region.

Thank you to our outgoing Directors who have retired from their positions on the Committee for Gippsland Board. Sincere appreciation for your commitment and dedication to making a tremendous contribution both to our organization and to the Gippsland region.

Elena Kelareva
Gippstech

Loretta Willaton
Telstra

Michelle Brooker
Brooker Builders

Projects



Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan

Committee for Gippsland (C4G), in partnership with Regional Development Australia – Gippsland Committee, launched the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Masterplan (GFIMP) after an extensive refresh and deep consultation with industry and regional stakeholders.

This important piece of work articulates the current demands and opportunities for investment into the region. GFIMP is a roadmap to strengthen infrastructure of the region's roads, rail, air and sea-ports, which in turn will bolster the future of Gippsland's economy. Federal Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories the Hon Kristy McBain was formally presented with the Masterplan, at the launch.

GFIMP identifies a total of 34 priorities developed with industry feedback, including 30 infrastructure type projects and four supporting initiatives and strategies. The ten highest priorities are:

- **The Traralgon Bypass**
- **The Warragul-Drouin Arterial Road Network**
- **The Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Bypass (Stage 2)**
- **The Sale Alternate Truck Route**
- **The Princes Highway (West of Longwarry) – Major Upgrades and Reinstate 100+km/h speed limit**
- **The Princes Highway Sale to Bairnsdale Duplication**
- **The Princes Highway (East of Bairnsdale) – Major Upgrades**

- **The South Gippsland Highway – Major Upgrades**
- **Additional Turnouts and Sidings on the Gippsland Railway Line**
- **A third International Airport Supporting Initiatives**

Four supporting initiatives were also identified as areas of focus including; developing the freight industry and workforce, improved partnerships between the freight industry and government, local road funding and investment (including First and Last Mile), as well as a review of the road safety barrier guidance, with industry input.

It is critical freight infrastructure investment decisions be appropriately planned with an eye on the future. The economic importance of the freight industry, in Gippsland, should not be understated. Annually, Gippsland's Gross Regional Product (GRP) is worth more than \$18 billion. The maintenance and continued expansion and improvement of our freight network is therefore imperative to leveraging this GRP and an emerging clean energy sector.

The main generators of freight movements in Gippsland have been the dairy, livestock, horticulture, resources and forestry industries. The continued growth in the



The Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan was launched at the Morwell Innovation Centre with Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Hon Kristy McBain. Pictured from left: Committee for Gippsland CEO Tony Cantwell, Committee for Gippsland Deputy Chair Sean Dignum, Minister McBain, RDA Gippsland Chair Michelle Dowsett and RDA Gippsland Deputy Chair Raelene Hanratty.

well-established extractive and energy industries, as well as the clean energy sector, diversification of our capabilities with waste recovery, renewable energy and niche manufacturing will all put increased pressure on our freight infrastructure.

A robust and efficient arterial network is critical to support the economic activity of the region. Whilst the region 'punches above its weight' in terms of economic output, it has been historically challenged by an over emphasis on two major road arterials that are perpetually playing catch up, in addition to an inadequate Gippsland rail freight network. There must be renewed focus on the ongoing performance of existing networks, as well as alternate enhanced freight options.

The 2023 GFIMP is a refresh of the 2013 edition which serves as a strategic planning tool to support investment attraction into the region.



The 2023 GFIMP was launched at the Morwell Innovation Centre in April.

Gippsland Global Series: Export Market Initiative

In 2023, Committee for Gippsland (C4G) continued its export market development initiative, the 'Gippsland Global Series' funded in partnership with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission.

This program aims to help local businesses across the region and industry to expand their market reach, grow local opportunities for investment and support their export market potential to take their Gippsland products and services to the world.

The series provides Gippsland businesses and industry with high quality workshops, forums and training activities to help increase their traction in overseas markets by way of developing export market skills and awareness, as well as increasing connections with key stakeholders from across the region and within the export market supply chain.

These sessions were an opportunity for Gippsland business and industry to reflect globally on their strategic planning and how to take advantage of export markets, which may not previously have been considered.

The Export Council of Australia was engaged to deliver training to 10 Gippsland small to medium businesses as part of the Gippsland Global Series, which included an additional one-on-one coaching session.



The Export Council of Australia is proud to have delivered a full-day Export Ready Workshop in Morwell, in partnership with the Committee for Gippsland.



The workshop was attended by local small and medium businesses who were excited to learn more about the implications and opportunities of exporting. It was wonderful to have had businesses across the food and beverage, professional services and consumer goods sector join the workshop. We find great learnings take place when sharing experiences across sectors.

Over the course of the day, information sessions were held on selecting an export market, the importance of IP protection, logistics and supply chain management, financing and branding. Participants were provided with expert advice from keynote speakers including Mainfreight, IP Australia and Export Finance Australia.

Participants took the opportunity to engage in additional one-on-one discussions, which allowed them to receive personalised feedback and guidance. Primary questions were around market suitability and partner selection, which are two incredibly important decisions that exporters need to make when entering a new market.

We wish all participants the very best on their export journeys and we look forward to seeing them flourish in overseas markets. We commend the Committee for Gippsland for offering this important training workshop to its members.

Stefanie Harter

Senior Training Manager, Export Council of Australia

Programs



Gippsland Community Leadership Program: Empowering local leaders

The Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP) is an experiential program delivered through interacting and working with the region's finest leaders, designing and delivering community projects and gaining skills and knowledge to build participant community leadership capacity.

GCLP was established in 1996 and is one of Australia's longest running regional leadership programs. More than 700 Gippslanders have graduated from the program and have gone on to represent their communities as diverse, talented and passionate community leaders. GCLP is one of 9 regional leadership programs and is supported by local sponsors and employers.

Over 2023, the program was completed in a total 20 days, including three residential. The cohort travelled all over Gippsland from the far southwest coast to Lakes Entrance in East Gippsland. This adds a unique experiential facet to GCLP and is a key component to the success of the program. Our cohort was guided by Global Leadership Foundation's Malcolm Lazenby, as well as several local facilitators.

This year's community projects from each of the syndicates were impressive and tackled some critical issues facing Gippsland Communities. Themes included: accessibility and awareness for people with a disability, foster care awareness campaign, revitalization of the outdoor healing space for LRH mental health facility, diverse story telling in East Gippsland, and youth mentoring.

In October, GCLP also enjoyed its Gippsland Annual Leadership Address with 2023 Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt held at The Wedge in Sale. Close to 200 people attended this event, which saw Taryn present on the importance of embracing our bodies for better physical and mental health.

Leading Australian Resilient Communities

Committee for Gippsland supported Leadership Victoria in delivering the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's Leading Australian Resilient Communities (LARC) – a national leadership program focusing on building resilience for Central and East Gippsland communities. The program enabled participants to work on leadership skills, with input from expert coaches, and consider what building resilience looked like. The program resulted in 22 Gippslanders graduating from LARC, in May, at the Morwell Innovation Centre.



Message from GCLP Manager – Erika McInerney



This year the program was completed in 20 days, including three two and half day residentials. The cohort travelled across Gippsland, experiencing firsthand the distance and diversity of landscapes and the challenges and opportunities present in our tiny towns and larger centres.

The program days offered connection to and insight from local leaders in industry, small business, community and more. We explored leadership in themes such as volunteering, transition, diversity and inclusion, education, health and much more.

This year's community projects tackled a range of challenges including disability access, raising awareness of the opportunities to foster care, reviving a space used by patients with long-term mental health issues, support of a junior leadership program in schools and reviving a grassroots festival celebrating storytelling and promotion of the Gunaikurnai People's culture and history in East Gippsland.

GCLP continues to foster strong partnerships in delivering the program, from across industry, local government and community organisations supporting the program. Thank you to our sponsors and supporters who make a tremendous contribution in helping deliver this important program.

In October, TAFE Gippsland partnered with Committee for Gippsland to host Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt to present at the GCLP Annual Leadership Address in Sale. Feedback from the event was very positive and Taryn presented a funny and bittersweet story of her leadership journey in the public eye.

This year we returned to holding the graduation and launch separately. The 2023 graduation, held at Narkoojee Winery, was an opportunity to hear about the community projects and to connect with the graduates. Four of the five projects will be continued, with interested local organisations taking them on which is a credit to the groups involved.

Gippsland Annual Leadership Address with Australian of the Year

Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt gave an inspirational presentation at Gippsland's Annual Leadership Address in Sale, hosted by the Committee of Gippsland (C4G) and TAFE Gippsland.

The leadership address was an opportunity to hear from an Australian of the Year on such an important topic that resonated with many in our region.

Taryn has been a champion in encouraging us all to embrace our own bodies and lead positive and healthy lives, so it was terrific to hear her speak of her own personal experience and leadership journey.

Thank you to our Gippsland Community Leadership Program partners TAFE Gippsland in supporting this event and helping bring Taryn's important message to Gippsland.

Event partner, TAFE Gippsland CEO Laura Macpherson said TAFE Gippsland was in the business of creating future leaders,

through supporting events such as this. "Taryn Brumfitt was an inspirational speaker, and we hope all those who attended took something valuable away from the event. Our vision is for a skilled and thriving Gippsland by bringing our community leaders together to learn from one another and from those outside the region who have knowledge to share."



Noel Pearson in Conversation with Gippsland.

Committee for Gippsland was honoured to partner with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) in welcoming founder of the Cape York Partnership and Good to Great Schools Australia, Noel Pearson, to Gippsland.

This offered an opportunity for Gippslanders to be part of an important conversation and to hear from someone with the experience and calibre of Noel Pearson.

Having served as a member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians and the Referendum Council, Mr Pearson was also a member of the First Nations Referendum Working Group and continues to advocate for structural reforms to empower Indigenous people.

For more than 30 years, Mr Pearson has pursued key agendas to achieve land rights and socioeconomic development outcomes for Cape York. He co-founded the Cape York Land Council and negotiated with the Keating government to establish the Native Title Act 1993 after the High Court's landmark Mabo decision rejected the fiction of terra nullius.

GLaWAC CEO Daniel Miller said the event was a great opportunity to welcome Noel Pearson from the Guugu Yimithirr community of Hope Vale to Gunaikurnai country.

Committee for Gippsland would like to thank event sponsors including Star of the South, Energy Australia, BlueFloat Energy, Latrobe Community Health Service and the Gippsland Climate Change Network for helping to bringing Mr Pearson to Gippsland.



Gippsland Hydrogen Cluster:

Gippsland Hydrogen Roadmap

Committee for Gippsland's Hydrogen Cluster is part of a national network, which leads the development and advancement of the growing hydrogen energy sector. As a network of industries with a pipeline of projects, the Gippsland Hydrogen Cluster, connects, facilitates and drives the development of a local hydrogen industry from generation through to application.

In 2023, C4G launched the Gippsland Hydrogen Roadmap. This comprehensive piece of work details how Gippsland can be at the forefront of this expanding industry.

The launch was attended by special guest, former chief scientist and author Dr Alan Finkel. Dr Finkel spoke about his latest book 'Powering Up: Unleashing the Clean Energy Supply Chain' and how we can make the most of opportunities hydrogen offers. Principal of Nous Group, and specialist on clean energy transition, Richard Bolt spoke at the launch on how Gippsland can fit into the broader Hydrogen industry. The launch was also attended by CarbonNet Project Director Jane Burton who spoke on the role of Carbon Capture and Storage in decarbonization, as well as a brief update on the CarbonNet Project.

Some of the key recommendations in the roadmap include:

- Hydrogen is crucial to achieving net zero- Australia is committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Renewable energies such as solar power and onshore and offshore wind are already making significant progress towards decarbonising the electricity grid. However, the use of oil and gas as an energy source and chemical feedstock also requires a clean alternative.
 - Gippsland is in a strong position to make green hydrogen- Hydrogen produced with low emissions is widely accepted as a vital contributor to reaching net zero emissions, in Australia and globally. Gippsland has a combination of crucial advantages that are rarely found in one region.
 - Gippsland has two pathways to clean hydrogen- Of the many ways in which hydrogen can be made, a small number produce no or low emissions: 'green' hydrogen from electrolysis of water using renewable power, and 'blue' hydrogen from lignite (using gasification or pyrolysis) or natural gas (using steam reforming), both with carbon capture and storage. Gippsland is unusually well endowed to produce both blue and green hydrogen.
- Gippsland hydrogen can meet domestic and export demand- Growing clean hydrogen supply and demand is a 'chicken and egg' challenge. Investment in scaling up and lowering the cost of hydrogen requires a large and long-term source of demand. However, building that demand by deploying hydrogen use technologies at sufficient scale, requires a low-cost and abundant source of fuel. Demand and supply will need to be scaled up together from mostly uncommercial starting points, so subsidies and regulation will be needed to close the commercial gap in the early stages.
 - Gippsland can make both blue and green hydrogen- There are potential synergies that would increase the viability of blue and green hydrogen production in Gippsland, once green hydrogen can be produced in commercial quantities. Green hydrogen can utilise infrastructure for blue hydrogen, including pipelines and ports, the development of which is being planned as part of the commercialisation of the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) project.
 - A Gippsland hydrogen industry will benefit other sectors- Intensive horticulture can use some of the carbon dioxide that is a by-product of blue hydrogen production to promote plant growth in controlled environments.
 - Action is needed to grow a Gippsland hydrogen industry- Government and corporate action is required, here and overseas, to build demand for clean hydrogen and derivatives such as ammonia and urea, to supply the required finance, and support investment in the region.
 - Government action can bring these opportunities to life- The emerging clean hydrogen industry will require strong and sustained action from governments and investors to reach its potential. This is true worldwide, and Gippsland's advantages make it a priority for support.

The strategy provides an essential tool to articulate investment opportunities for government, as well as the private sector.



To celebrate the release of the National Hydrogen Skills and Training Analysis Project, Committee for Gippsland (C4G) hosted a special presentation with a hydrogen industry leader, Anthony Clucas, from H2X Global. H2X is an international company based in Gippsland, manufacturing world class zero emission vehicles. Anthony presented an update on the company's hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle project at the Morwell Innovation Centre. The presentation generated much interest in how our Gippsland industry, community, government and education sectors could support the establishment of an industry which would help to secure our clean energy future, create several meaningful jobs and support Australia's transport security.



H2X Global Chief Operating Officer Anthony Clucas, spoke to Committee for Gippsland members at the Morwell Innovation Centre earlier this year.



At the launch of the Gippsland Hydrogen Roadmap Jon McNaught, Latrobe City Council Cr Kellie O'Callaghan, Dr Alan Finkel, Richard Bolt, Jane Burton and Lisa Gooding.

Advocacy & Activities

Jobs and skills

First Nations Employment Presentation

Committee for Gippsland hosted a First Nations Employment presentation in May. This was a popular event and included a panel of local inspiring experts who demonstrated how we can all commit to action towards creating opportunities for our First Nations community in Gippsland.



First nations Employment Pannel speakers included Joanne Brunt from Latrobe City Council, Charles Soloman from Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC), Deborah O'Reilly-Nugent from Kinaway-The Victorian Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce, Peter O'Brien from First Nations Traffic Management (pictured centre), Latrobe Regional Health's Aboriginal Liasion Officer Gail Mounsey (pictured on left), Bonnie O'Shanassy and Mark Wilkins from Latrobe Regional Hospital who all generously shared their advice on how to make a positive difference to First Nations peoples and generations to follow.

Creating Inclusive Workplaces – Employing people with a disability

Due to the success the First Nations Employment Presentation, the Committee for Gippsland presented a second inclusive employment session; 'Employing People with a Disability' at the Morwell Innovation Centre in June. This was an opportunity to hear from key Gippsland leaders on this subject with the session covering inclusion, community, respect and the value of employing people with disability.

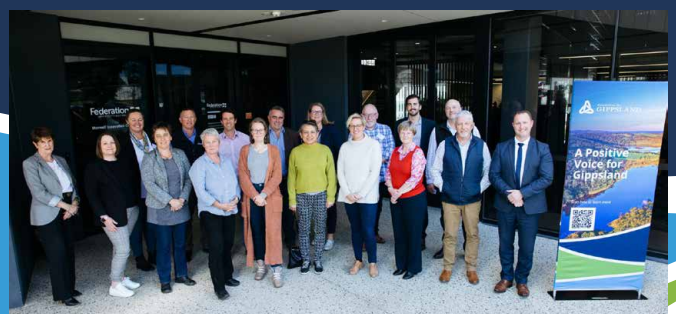


Employing people with a disability. Caption: Pictured: At our 'Employing People with a Disability' panel discussion from left Lisa Price, Kerryn Carpenter, Susie Lewis, LVE team member Andrew, Claire Cutler and Leanne Wishart]

Developing local leaders and good governance through AICD in Gippsland

Committee for Gippsland was pleased to be able to coordinate and present a local opportunity for Gippsland business and community leaders to complete the Australian Institute of Company Directors course at the Morwell Innovation Centre. This is the second year the Committee for Gippsland partnered with Australian Institute of Company Directors to offer this exciting opportunity locally. The Company Directors Course is nationally recognised for producing world-class leaders, with an unparalleled knowledge of best practice governance.

This was a great opportunity to ensure such courses are delivered locally and enable local networks to be enhanced. Given the success of the course to date, the Committee for Gippsland will look to deliver the course again in 2024.



Gippsland's Clean Energy Future

In 2022 Committee for Gippsland launched its report Gippsland's Clean Energy Future: Through investment and growth and has continued to advocate to government for strategic investment into the region ensuring a strong future for Gippsland.

The Federal Government has since announced Gippsland's coast as Australia's first offshore windfarm zone. The declared area in Bass Strait covers around 15,000 km² offshore and will run from Lakes Entrance to south of Wilsons Promontory. This was a significant step in our region's transition to a clean energy future. Committee for Gippsland has focused on strengthening a pathway for Gippsland careers into offshore wind while also developing the workforce and supply chain.

At the State Electricity Commission of Victoria Jobs and Skills Forum, the team from Star of the South, launched their 'Making the move to offshore wind – a guide for workers' report that outlines the opportunities to transfer skills and retrain for a career in offshore wind. The report found around 70 percent of Gippsland's coal power and mining and oil and gas workers are ready for a career in offshore wind.

C4G also welcomed BlueFloat Energy CEO, Carlos Martin Rivals, all the way from Spain to Gippsland to join a panel with Federation University Australia's, Leigh Kennedy and Wellington Shire Council's General Manager Development, Andrew Pomeroy. The presentation was an opportunity to discuss the proposed Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind project – one of the largest for our region.

Raising the opportunities for Gippsland's transition, C4G CEO, Tony Cantwell, also presented at the 2023 Australian Wind Energy Conference, taking part in a panel session on 'Community Engagement in the Australian Context and its Lessons for Emerging Offshore Projects'.



BlueFloat Energy team from left Nick Sankey, Deb Neumann and Kate Lancaster with C4G CEO Tony Cantwell.



Photo From left: Chief Executive Officer of Beyond Zero Emissions Heidi Lee, C4G CEO Tony Cantwell, Chief Executive Officer Committee for Hunter Alice Thompson.



At the Victorian State Electricity Commission Jobs and Skills Forum earlier this year from left Committee for Gippsland CEO Tony Cantwell, Star of the South Chief Development Officer Erin Coldham, Energy Australia Yallourn Transition Leader Lisa Gooding, and Voices of the Valley president Wendy Farmer

Net Zero Economy Agency

Committee for Gippsland (C4G) welcomed the Federal Government taking a national approach to transition with the establishment of a national Net Zero Economy Agency in 2023. In the lead up to this announcement, C4G met with the Net Zero Taskforce to outline the key opportunities for ensuring that regions undergoing transition, such as Gippsland, are supported at a federal level and important investment is enabled.

We look forward to working with the NZEA team to deliver positive outcomes for Gippsland as the region transitions.



Committee for Gippsland CEO Tony Cantwell (left) working with the Net Zero Authority team and C4G members. The federal authority will be tasked with ensuring Gippsland communities, who have powered Australia for generations, can seize the opportunities of Australia's net zero transformation.

Regions undergoing transition: delegation to the Hunter Valley

Committee for Gippsland also facilitated a visit of Gippsland industry and regional leaders to the Hunter Valley, in partnership with the Committee for Hunter, to identify opportunities for collaboration and learn from each other's experiences. The visit was a significant success, with both regions agreeing to work together to address the challenges of energy transition and maximize the opportunities for investment in their communities.

The delegation met with a range of stakeholders in the Hunter, including representatives from the Committee for Hunter, the Net Zero Economy Agency, AGL, the University of Newcastle and the Institute for Regional Futures. The discussions were productive and informative, and the delegation was particularly impressed with the work being done in the Hunter to develop new energy industries and support workers through the transition.

The delegation also met with a number of community groups in the Hunter and were inspired by their resilience and determination to build a better future for their region. The visit was a reminder that when communities work together, they can overcome any challenge.



Freight Infrastructure advocacy from left: State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, Minister for Energy and Resources, Climate Action and the State Electricity Commission, Lily D'Ambrosio, Star of the South's Chief Development Officer Erin Coldham and C4G CEO Tony Cantwell, at Barry's Beach Marine Terminal (BBMT) earlier this year. BBMT is highlighted in the Gippsland Freight Infrastructure Master Plan as a key Gippsland port for our clean energy transition, particularly for its proximity to Australia's first offshore wind zone in Gippsland.



Gippsland and Hunter Valley leaders meet to discuss transition: thank you to our members and strategic partners who were able to join us up in the Hunter including: Lisa Gooding, Erin Coldham, Rochelle Wrigglesworth, Sean Dignum, EnergyAustralia, BlueFloat Energy Australia, Star of the South, AGL, AusNet Services, Federation University Australia, TAFE Gippsland, Marinus Link, Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council and Regional Development Australia Gippsland

Committee for Gippsland Members

Federation University

RGM Financial Group

Latrobe Community Health Services

Best Match Recruitment

Marinus Link

Octopus Investments

GHD AUSTRALIA

Safetech

RADFORDS BUTCHERS

Burra Foods

McFarlane Criminal Lawyers

Alinta Energy

Jana Group

AGL

SDA Strategic

Lardner Park

Hydro Australia

NBN Co.

Corrinne Armour

Spiire

Gippsland Ports Committee of Management

Warragul Linen Service

GIPPSLAND LLEN
(Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN)

Latrobe Valley Enterprises

Monash University-Fire to Flourish

Star of the South Trust

Gippsland Project Management

East Gippsland Marketing Inc

ForeFront Co.

RubberTough Industries

DFP Recruitment Services

Australia Carbon Innovation

Connectivity IT

Telstra Business Tech Centre

Dyers Gippsland Transport

First National King & Heath

Leah Methers

Elders Rural Services

Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort

Dahlsens

Marathon Electrical

Gippsland Water

La Concierge

Victorian Livestock Exchange

Advance Morwell

WORKWAYS AUSTRALIA LIMITED

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