



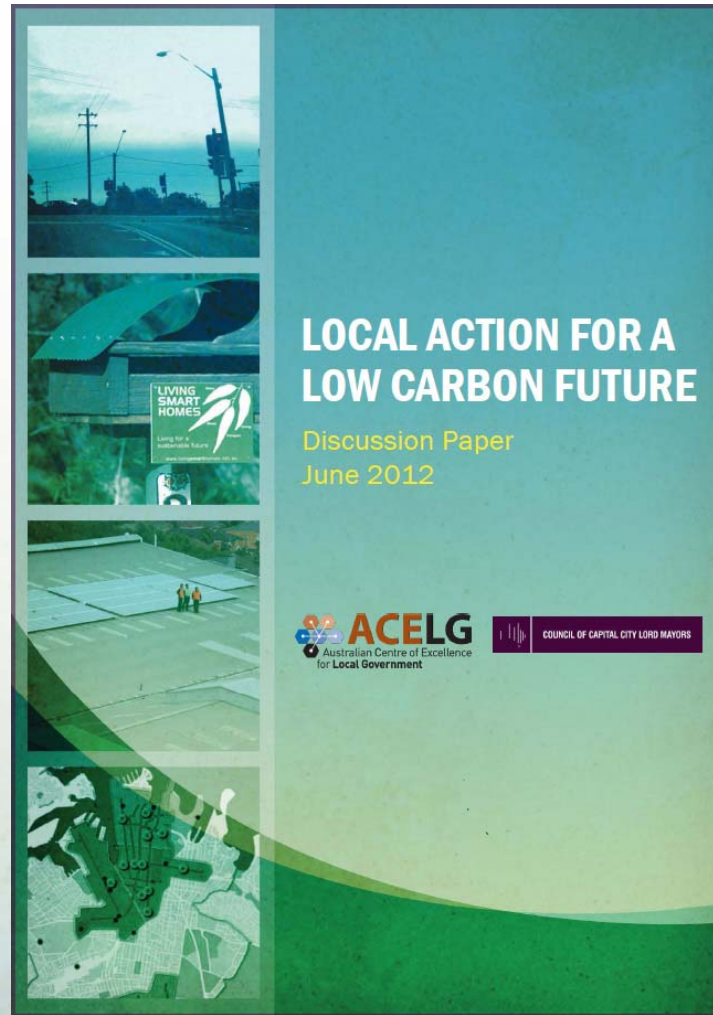
Local Action for a Low Carbon Future

Discussion Paper

Thursday 14 June 2012

Cheryl Thomas, Stefanie Pillora and Hazel Storey





<http://www.acelg.org.au/news-detail.php?id=234>

The project team

Project Reference Group

- ▶ Cheryl Thomas, CCCLM
- ▶ Graham Sansom, ACELG
- ▶ John Ravlic and Lauren Oakey, Local Government Managers Australia
- ▶ Ruth Spielman, National Growth Areas Alliance
- ▶ John Lauder, Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sports
- ▶ Meg McDonald and Melissa Cutler, Low Carbon Australia Limited
- ▶ Josh Thompson, Australian Local Government Association.

Report authors

Hazel Storey, Martin Brennan, Stefanie Pillora, Cheryl Thomas.

Why the research?

- ▶ Position local government as an integral player in initiating and delivering a clean energy future for Australia
- ▶ Capture the role played by local government in galvanising local level support and innovation
- ▶ Outline benefits for communities from increased Federal Government collaboration with local government on clean energy initiatives
- ▶ Showcase local government innovation in delivering outcomes to a Federal audience.

Project timeframe

- ▶ May 2011 – Local Government Climate Change Roundtable
- ▶ November 2011 – Reference group meets
- ▶ Jan to March 2012 – Desktop review and council survey & interviews
- ▶ March 2012 – ICLEI Sustainable Communities Forum
- ▶ April / May 2012 – consultation on case studies and draft paper
- ▶ June 2012 – Low Carbon Futures seminar
- ▶ June / July 2012 – report dissemination and further discussion.

The National Policy Context

- ▶ Australian governments hold joint position
Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Agreement
- ▶ A price on carbon and measures to assist communities and businesses
The Clean Energy Future Plan and programs for local government and community
- ▶ National local government bodies supportive
ALGA, CCCLM, LGMA National
- ▶ Precedent for national-local collaboration
Cities for Climate Protection Program legacy.

A snapshot of council policies

NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland

- ▶ 82% of NSW Councils were planning for climate change with 64% councils having a documented strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ 58% of Victorian Councils have a climate change mitigation strategy
- ▶ 31% of South Australian councils have a climate change plan or strategy
- ▶ 27% of Queensland councils took part in the CCP program

Common Motivations for action

- ▶ Showing leadership through reducing emissions in their own operations, and a sense of responsibility in planning for the long term
- ▶ Compliance with requirements, including National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act for larger councils

Four key strengths identified

- ▶ Effectiveness in building partnerships and working collaboratively at multiple levels
- ▶ Proximity enables councils to connect frequently and directly with citizens, local businesses and a range of community stakeholders
- ▶ Unlocking investment capital and embarking on innovative and transformative practices and projects
- ▶ Unique access to increasingly fine-grained land use and employment data to assist in carbon emission reductions.

Working collaboratively

Case Studies

- ▶ SSROC Street Lighting Improvement Program, Working with one Voice
- ▶ Regional Collaboration: Greenhouse Alliances in Victoria
- ▶ Regeneration, a partnership project of Blacktown City Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- ▶ Transitioning to a low carbon future – Latrobe City Council, Victoria.

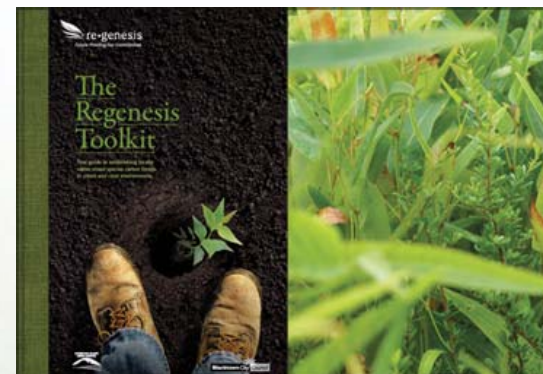
Case study – SSROC Street lighting Improvement Program

- ▶ Works on behalf of 34 councils
- ▶ Member councils host 40% of street lighting in NSW
- ▶ Councils aggregated to present business case to Ausgrid (formerly Energy Australia)
- ▶ Partnership enables collaboration with state govt and regulators
- ▶ Ausgrid has deployed 30,000 compact fluorescent lights, a third of the total in Australia, with benefits for maintenance savings as well as energy efficiency.



Case study – Blacktown City and Liverpool Plains Shire

- ▶ Blacktown City, 310,00 residents, 246.9 km²
- ▶ Liverpool Plains, 8000 residents, 5086 km²
- ▶ 33 carbon forests now established on public and private land



- ▶ The Regensis project partnership provided test cases of carbon forests on different land types, in rural and peri-urban areas
- ▶ Working partnerships established with more than 30 agencies and over 11,000 community members engaged in regeneration.

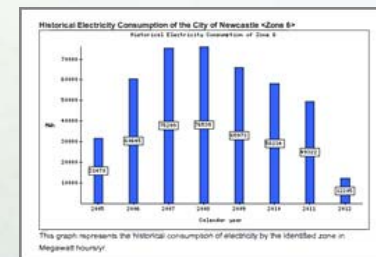
Proximity to local communities

Case Studies

- ▶ Local Partnerships: ClimateCam and the 2020 Carbon and Water Management Action Plan - Newcastle City Council, NSW
- ▶ Townsville Solar City, Queensland
- ▶ Living Smart - South East Queensland. A joint program between Moreton Bay Regional Council and Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- ▶ Building capacity in Regional NSW, Parkes and Cowra Councils.

Case Study - Newcastle City Council

- ▶ City of Newcastle, NSW – 183 km², over 154,000 residents
- ▶ via CSIRO, TAFE, NSW Dept of Education, Catholic Schools Office, Uni Newcastle, NSW Office of Environment & Heritage
- ▶ ClimateCam – world's first greenhouse gas speedometer, tracking the GHG emissions for Newcastle (monthly data) for the community
- ▶ Energy efficiency information for businesses & residents, schools Online Resource Kit (48 schools participating).



Case Study – Parkes and Cowra Shire Councils

- ▶ Councils are members of CENTROC, located in Central NSW
- ▶ Councils and local businesses held 2010 climate change summit
- ▶ Parkes Council developed the business case for distributed energy and energy efficiency projects, including 300kW solar PV
- ▶ Cowra Council led the 'Energise Central NSW' conference attended by 150 people. Local schools also involved.
- ▶ Won LGSA NSW 'Communication, Education & Empowerment' Environmental Award.

Unlocking investment capital

Case Studies

- ▶ Randwick City Council: Making sure Financing Reaches the Community
- ▶ Local Government in South Australia Combines Co-ordination of Community Solar with Building Investment Funds
- ▶ 1200 Buildings - City of Melbourne, Victoria.

Case study: City of Melbourne

- ▶ City of Melbourne, VIC - 37.6sq km, around 96,500 residents
- ▶ 1,200 Buildings - improve energy/water efficiency, reduce waste in commercial buildings, provide jobs
- ▶ Finance to building owners to retrofit; funds recovered via a charge linked to rates collection
- ▶ 38% energy efficiency improvement in commercial buildings (i.e. eliminate 383,000 tonnes of GHG emissions annually) to contribute Melbourne becoming carbon neutral by 2020.



Use of local knowledge

‘making use of knowledge from increasingly fine-grained land use and employment data relating to their communities’

Case Studies

- ▶ Precinct Trigeneration - City of Sydney, New South Wales
- ▶ Opportunities for Metropolitan Growth Areas: City of Whittlesea, Victoria.

Case study: City of Sydney

- ▶ City of Sydney home to 177,000 residents
- ▶ Covers CBD and inner city suburbs
- ▶ 70% emission reduction target by 2030
- ▶ Main strategy – connect a network of buildings to trigeneration; signed agreement with Cogent Energy (owned by Origin Energy)
- ▶ Involved extensive modelling of electricity, heating and cooling demands; drew on CoS Floorspace and Employment data
- ▶ Potential to supply 70% of city electricity requirements and save \$1.5 billion in building new power stations and grid upgrades.



Case study: City of Whittlesea

- ▶ City of Whittlesea, north of Melbourne, covers 487 km², population 163,500 (by 2012 expected to be 238,000)
- ▶ Working with developers and energy specialists to deliver low carbon solutions for subdivisions and greenfield sites
- ▶ With Growth Areas Authority, seeking expert advice on precinct structures that are less dependent on non-renewable energy
- ▶ Energy Statements to demonstrate innovation (e.g. inclusion of distributed energy solutions) and guidance for purchasers.

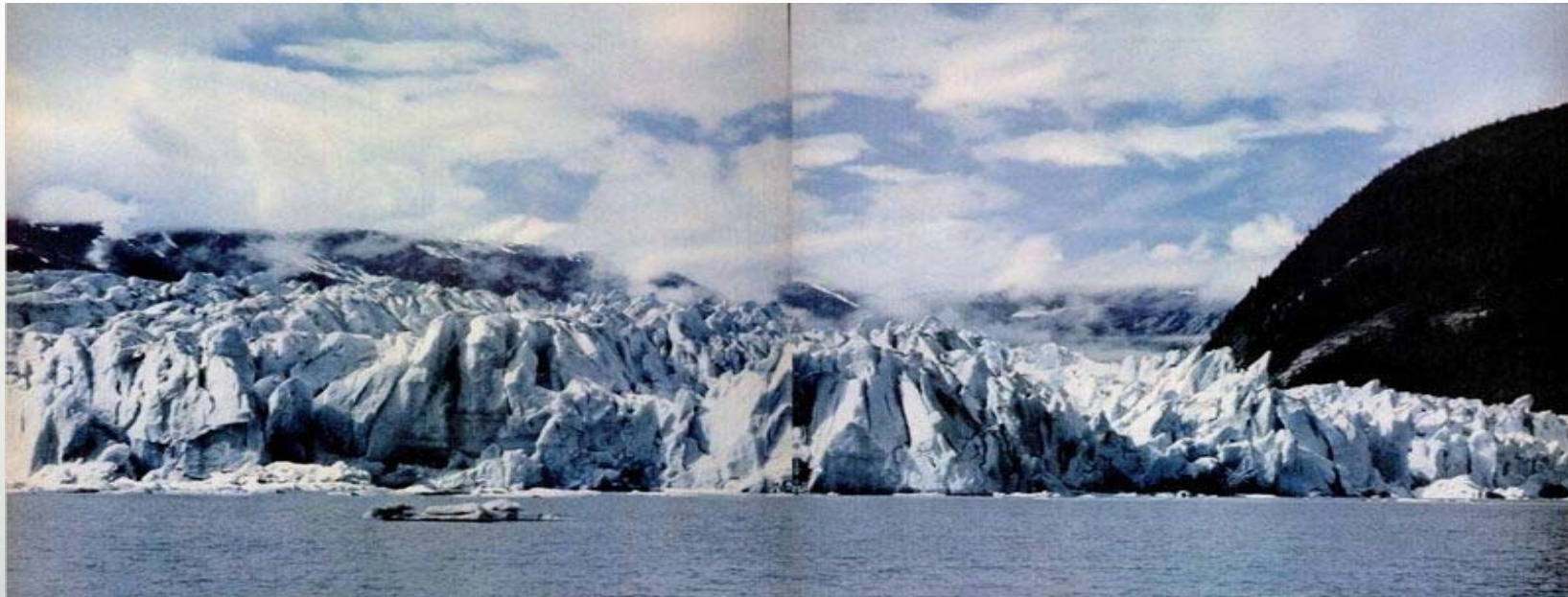


Next steps

- ▶ Facilitate further discussion in the local government sector about the findings
- ▶ Encourage use of the case studies and other data by governments as a resource
- ▶ Distribute the report to federal members of parliament
- ▶ Establish a dialogue with key federal government departments.

For Discussion

- ▶ What do you think would assist greater collaboration between federal and local governments around low carbon futures?
- ▶ What specific actions do you think are needed to further unlock the potential of local government ?



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESEARCH SHOWCASE AND FORUM

ACELG, in partnership with Edith Cowan University, is organising a free forum on current local government research on Thursday 12th July 2012. The forum will showcase the latest ACELG research and also provide a professional development opportunity for practitioners interested in local government research, and a networking opportunity for researchers. [Read more >>](#)

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LATEST PUBLICATIONS

David Somerville, Melissa Gibbs
(Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG)) published **Legal and Governance Models for Shared Services in Local Government** in **Corporate governance, Financial Management**.

LATEST IN FORUM

Stefanie posted in **John Lavarack commenced as ACELG Research Officer** 4 weeks ago in **General Discussion**

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FEATURED RESEARCHER

Tim Robinson

Tim held senior positions in the Federal and NSW State Government before joining Fairfield City Council as a director in 2005. During his career he has worked for the Australian Federal Police, the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Environment Protection Authority and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Tim has degrees in management and public sector management including a PhD in the area of strategic management in local government. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. His research interests include local government reform and strategic leadership.

LG RESEARCH NEWS

15/5/12 - Perth Metropolitan local government review draft findings have been released for public comment until May 25. [Read more >>](#)

15/5/12 - Proposals for the 2012 Research Partnership Scheme have closed - successful applicants to be named shortly.

17/4/12 - Info on the launch of ACELG's community governance paper. [Read more >>](#)

[Suggest a news item](#)

EVENTS OF INTEREST

14 June 2012
Low Carbon Futures: Opportunities for local government Seminar

26-28 June 2012
2012 NCCARF National Adaptation Conference National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility

27-28 June 2012
2012 Future of Local Government National Summit Municipal Association of Victoria

[Suggest an event](#)

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The Local Government Researchers Network

<http://lgresearch.net.au>



Further information

To download a copy of the report, go to www.ancelg.org.au or www.lordmayors.org

To contribute to the online discussion, go to www.lgresearch.net.au

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