

WALGA Webinar: Exploring Climate Alliances for Local Government



Date: Monday, 31 August 2020

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

WEBINAR OVERVIEW

Please join us for a webinar that will explore how climate alliances between Local Governments can be used to strengthen the planning and delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. A workshop session will focus on exploring whether an alliance model would be useful for WA Local Governments to adopt to advance climate action, and the steps required to form these alliances.

PROGRAM

- 10:00am** **Welcome and Introduction**
Gemma Cook, Environment Policy Officer, WALGA
- 10:05am** **Protecting Our Coastal and Estuarine Environment's in Australia's Most Populated Area Through Regional Collaboration**
Sarah Joyce, Executive Officer, Sydney Coastal Councils Group
- 10:25pm** **Question and answer session**
- 10:35am** **Victorian Greenhouse Alliances-Local Governments Working Together on Climate Change**
Karen Gardham, Project Manager, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
- 10:55am** **Question and answer session**
- 11:05am** **Comparing Two Collaborative Models: Cockburn Sound Coastal Alliance and Peron-Naturaliste Partnership**
Brett Ashby, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment, City of Rockingham
- 11:25am** **Question and answer session**
- 11:35am** **Interactive Workshop Session- Exploring Possibilities for Climate Alliances for WA Local Governments**
Garry Middle, A/Manager Environment Policy, WALGA
Gemma Cook, Environment Policy Officer, WALGA
- 11:55am** **Conclusion and next steps**
Garry Middle, A/Manager Environment Policy, WALGA
- 12:00pm** **Close of event**



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Sarah Joyce, Executive Officer, Sydney Coastal Councils Group, will discuss the formation of, and actions undertaken by the Sydney Coastal Councils Group to address the impacts of climate change. The Sydney Coastal Councils Group was established in 1989 as a collaborative regional organisation made up of 9 coastal councils that support resilient and healthy coastal and estuarine environments in the context of climate change. Sarah will outline the projects, governance structure and achievements of the group, and highlight some of the lessons she has learnt from the group's collaborative approach to climate action.

Karen Gardham, Project Manager, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, will provide an overview of the role of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) in facilitating collaboration between Local Governments in Victoria to address climate change. The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action is comprised of nine member councils and is working to increase the capacity and resilience of Local Governments to climate change impacts through advocacy, research, collaboration and emission reduction projects. Karen will discuss the governance, funding model and interaction NAGA has with other alliances, and outline some of the successful outcomes and lessons that have come out of her experiences with NAGA.

Brett Ashby, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment, City of Rockingham, will draw on his experiences with the Cockburn Sound Coastal Alliance (CSCA) and Peron-Naturaliste Partnership (PNP) to provide a comparison of two different alliances models. CSCA is a partnership between four coastal Local Governments and Perth Region NRM, set up to respond to the impacts of climate change on the Cockburn Sound coastline, including coastal erosion and inundation. PNP is an incorporated collective of nine Local Governments that advocates, shares knowledge, and supports collaboration to support adaptation to the impacts of climate change on coastlines in the southwest of WA.

Climate Alliances Background

Local Governments are at the forefront of climate change action in WA and as the level of government closest to communities, are often best placed to support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Many Local Governments in WA have responded to climate change by taking actions that include making climate change declarations and developing specific climate change related strategies. However, some Local Governments struggle to effectively address climate change due to funding constraints and difficulty engaging the relevant expertise. Smaller Local Governments can be particularly constrained due to limited resources.

An innovative way to address this problem is through regionally based alliances. In these alliances resources are shared and pooled, enabling these groups to achieve shared objectives, including receiving grant money which would not be accessible to independent Local Governments. Successful examples of this model already exist in Victoria and New South Wales.

This event will explore the potential of forming similar alliances in WA to address the impacts of climate change and to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.