



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Mount Alexander Shire Council
and
Mount Alexander Sustainability Group

1. PARTIES

Mount Alexander Sustainability Inc. ('MASG')
233 Barker St, PO Box 1043 Castlemaine 3450
54706978
admin@masg.org.au

Mount Alexander Shire Council ('Council')
PO Box 185
Castlemaine 3450
5471 1700
info@mountalexander.vic.gov.au

2. TERM OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Start date: 1 July 2011

End date: 30 June 2014

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to outline:

- How the two organisation work collaboratively to progress shared objectives which are outlined in Council endorsed strategic plans such as the Greenhouse Action Plan ('GAP') and Environment Strategy
- How the two organisations can support each other in achieving their shared objectives
- How we will communicate with each other

4. BACKGROUND

The Mount Alexander Shire Council is committed to a sustainable environment. In the *Mount Alexander Shire Council Plan 2009 – 2013*, Council has committed 'to protect, enhance and restore the natural environment' and 'reduce the Shire's ecological footprint'. In 2011 Council endorsed both an Environment Strategy and a Greenhouse Action Plan. Each with a lifespan of three years, these important strategic documents will assist in meeting Council's commitments.

The Mount Alexander Sustainability Group is a not-for-profit community organisation with over 800 supporters and members who are local people taking action to combat climate change. MASG works on positive responses to climate change and peak oil; and is seeking ways to get renewable energy systems in place in the region. MASG's main focus is reducing carbon emissions through improving energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy. MASG also has interests in working on sustainability issues related to transport,

waste, food & water security and the built environment.

MASG and Council recognise the importance of partnerships and community engagement to achieve lasting, sustainability outcomes. Working collaboratively is an effective way to try and ensure the opportunities for our community and council are realised and that the challenges presented by matters of climate change are met and dealt with our best efforts.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

How we will work together

Mount Alexander Shire Council will:

- Promote MASG programs through existing media channels where appropriate
- Seek advice on climate change projects, free of charge, where this information progresses council objectives
- Provide the use of facilities for MASG community events which promote the objectives of council strategies at no charge
- Inform residents of recycling facilities and other resources made available at the MASG offices
- Provide support to funding applications for MASG initiatives where outcomes align with Council's priorities and commitments

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group will:

- Promote Council programs through e-newsletters and other communication channels where appropriate
- Provide support to funding applications for Council initiatives where outcomes align with MASG's priorities and commitments
- Provide information and expert advice to Council when appropriate and within the means of MASG resources (example Maine's Power project, Solar PV installation and Feed in Tariff for Council buildings etc) at no charge
- Assist to communicate and publicise the Council GAP and Environment Strategy to the wider community

Together we will:

- Interact in a courteous and respectful manner, appreciating the differences between local government and community organisations
- Maintain regular, informal officer contact to maximise opportunities for collaboration and information sharing
- Commit to review this MOU at its end date, June 30 2014

6. REPORTING

Report to Council on an annual basis

7. AUTHORISATION

Mount Alexander Shire Council _____ / ____ / ____
Mayor Date

Mount Alexander Sustainability Group _____ / ____ / ____
Chair Date