



LGMA National Congress

VCOSS, Philanthropy, Government, Councils & the NFP Sector: Working in Partnership to Build Community Resilience

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State Government Community Building Initiative (CBI)



Announced in *A Fairer Victoria* 2005 - \$10 million placed-based investment
4 year initiative 2006 - 2010

CBI works with local communities to build resilience at the local level, enabling them to respond to emerging issues such as bushfire recovery, drought, population growth or decline and industry change

Aims to:

- Build capacity and leadership
- Deliver new and improved facilities
- Build relationships within, and across, communities and organisations networks
- Grow local economies and enhance employment opportunities
- Plan for the Future
- Opportunities for new and improved community infrastructure

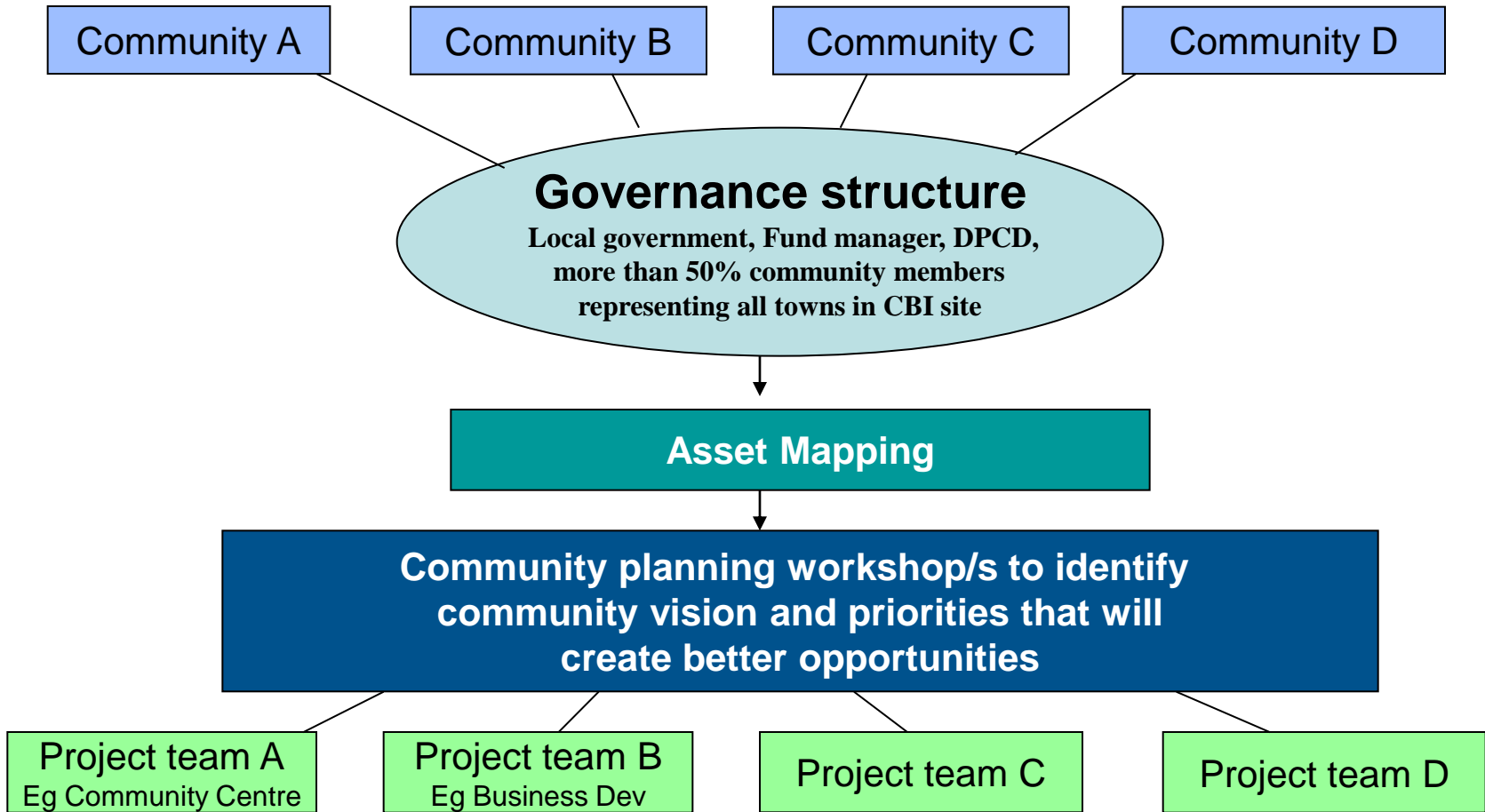
Community Building Initiative locations



A Victorian Government initiative



CBI Model





CBI achievements to date

- 62 Community Opportunity Workshops with over 4,000 people - 14 workshops attracted 25-30% of the town
- Over 400 people involved in local governance structures - recognised as the hub to drive action in communities
- Over 550 partner organisations supporting community project activities
- Over 1500 people working in teams to implement projects
- Leveraged over \$14 million in additional funds towards community projects – including \$9.1M for community infrastructure





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance (MSCA)

Partnership between





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

- Consistent with the Trust's desire to support local rural communities via local community groups and councils
- To provide a focussed funding option which is only available to CBI communities and to assist in leveraging additional funds
- Catalyst for building new partnerships within and across communities, organisations and government
- Leverage from VCOSS as a peak organisation (ie networks, training programs and Clearinghouse services)





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

How the Partnership Works:

- Formal Funding Agreement
- 2008 – Two Grant Rounds - 31 July & 31 October
- 2009 & 2010 Three Grant Rounds
- DPCD completes initial assessment of applications
- Joint Partnership Committee
 - recommend funds to specific priority projects
 - monitor and review
- Funding recommendations to be endorsed/approved by the HMS Trustees & Government
- Joint Announcements
- Shared monitoring of project delivery



Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)

DPCD links planning with community development to build active, confident, and inclusive communities.

Community Development Group contributes to DPCD's goal of leading and supporting the development of liveable communities.

Key areas of focus:

- participation
- governance
- investment
- sustainability





Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS)

Mission

As the peak body of the social and community services sector in Victoria we pursue just and fair social outcomes through policy development and collaborative advocacy.

Values

The values that guide VCOSS in all the work we do are:

Energy and vision

Integrity and result

Collaboration, inclusiveness and team work

Continuous improvement and sustainability

Open constructive communication





Helen Macpherson Smith Trust (HMST)

- Established in 1951
- Initial corpus of £275,000
– current value around \$90 million
- Supports only Victorian-based Charitable Institutions, Public Benevolent Institutions and Health Promotion Charities
- 3 Grant rounds per year
 - September
 - January
 - April
- Approx \$5-\$6 million allocated per year)
- Total grants to date of over \$85 million
- www.hmstrust.org.au





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

MSCA 1 (2004 – 2006)

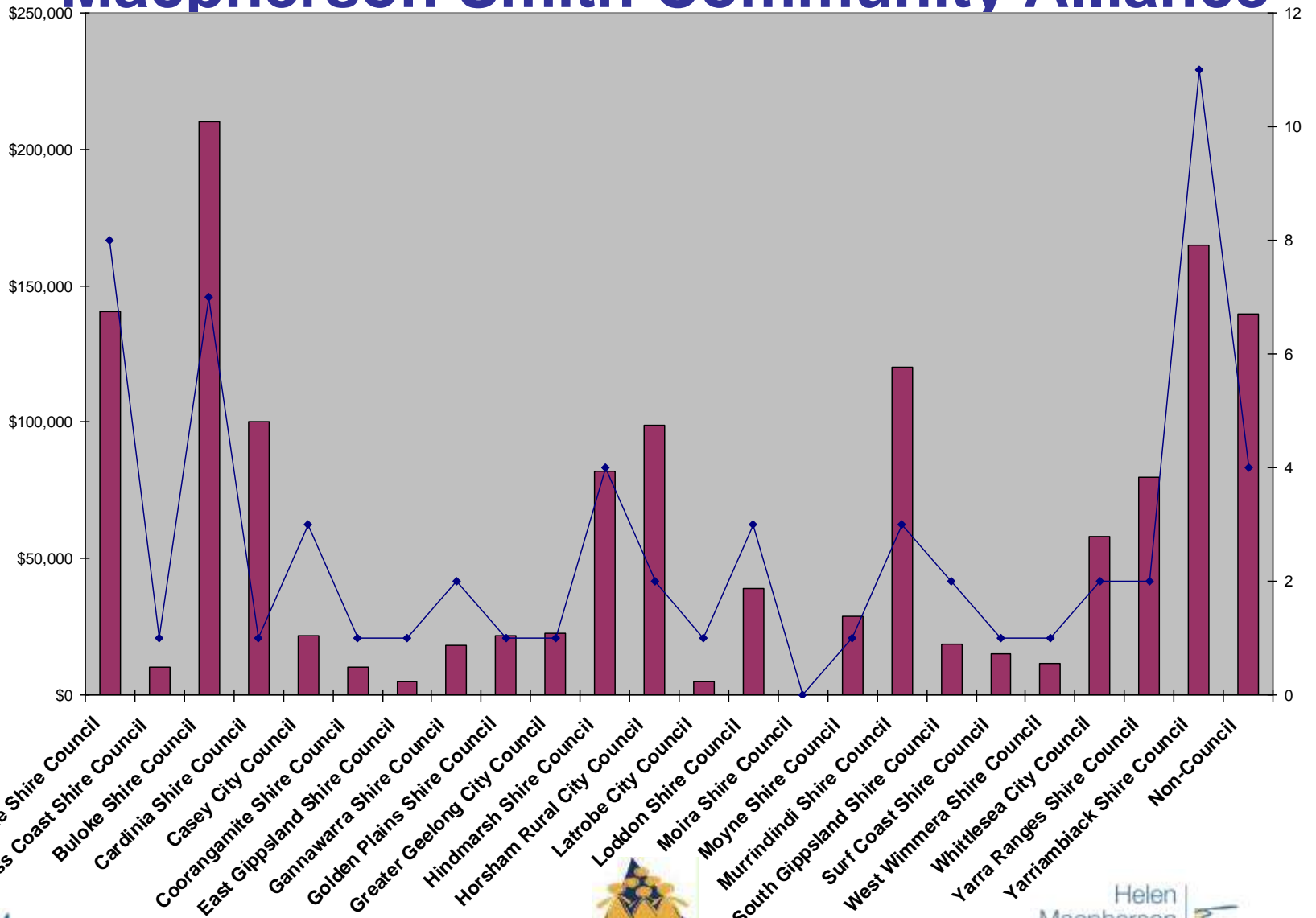
- Partnership between Trust and Regional Development Victoria
- Matched grant of \$500,000 each to create \$1M fund
- 11 CCBI projects 55 small Victorian towns
- 47 Grants/\$1M allocated

MSCA 2 (2006 – 2010)

- Partnership between HMS Trust and DPCD
- Matched funds of \$1M each to create \$2M Fund
- 19 CBI projects – 102 small Victorian towns
- First granting round – December 2007
- 63 Grants/\$1.4M allocated



Macpherson Smith Community Alliance





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

Types of Projects:

Infrastructure:

- Community Auditoriums
- Public Hall Disability access
- Toilet facilities
- Feasibility studies eg pool
- Men's Sheds
- Community Gyms
- Skate Parks

Tourism:

- History/Bike Trails
- Events/Festivals
- Playground development eg All-ability, BBQs, gazebos, Information Centres
- Signage & street scapes
- Tourism publications & newsletters





Macpherson Smith Community Alliance

Types of Projects:

Environment:

- Green waste management
- Indigenous plantings
- Community Gardens
- Environment Parks

Capacity Building:

- Youth Leadership
- Community Plans/Feasibilities



Hills 2 Sea

Grantville, Nyora and District



Top Priority Projects:

- Corinella Jetty rebuild part
- Grantville Memorial Park
- Nyora Skate Park
- Pioneer Bay BBQ and Shelter
- Community access to Pool at Bass Valley School
- Community Safety & Emergency Services
- Nyora Tobys Paddock

Snapshot

- Active Projects: 17
- Volunteers: 105
- Funding Secured: \$386,012
- Partnerships: 19

Highlights to date:

- Corinella Jetty - \$40,000 secured (DSE), \$10,000 Foreshore Committee, application to Victorian Recreational Fishing
- Grantville Memorial Park - \$450,000 project secured \$45,000 community, \$66,000 Bass Coast Shire, \$141,000 CSF, strong support
- Nyora Skate Park - \$36,000 project, \$7,000 Community Cash/inkind, \$10,500 SRV, \$9,500 SGS Council, \$8,800 MSCA
- Pioneer Bay BBQ and Shelter Cross community project built by community with support of \$15,000 from BCS Council



Nyora Skatepark

- Concept formed by young people in 2001
- Young people found suitable support adults
- Land identified but not available
- Permission sought

FUNDRAISING

- Re-use recycle- a cage was built to collect cans
- Non-event held, where you paid to not have to attend an event
- Sport and Recreation Victoria
- Macpherson Smith Community Alliance





Getting ready to work

- Ensure planning was well prepared
- Stakeholders became project partners
- OH&S issues worked through
- Fencing erected
- Leverage of the funds to maximize the opportunities.
- Seeking ways to maximize the dollars by project managing construction





How CBI helped

- Getting the issue noticed and on the public agenda.
- A conduit of support and information for project proponents
- Able to assist with funding submissions
- Assistance with planning and organisational structure
- Expansion of the idea to integrate young people with broader community





What was achieved

- Ownership by young people
- True dialogue with community and young people
- A model for sustainable development that young people are happy to sign on to
- Formation of a youth action group
- Sense of achievement for the community
- Bike awareness
- Local Business support
- Good relations with Police





Key elements of success

Local Action

- “One size does not fit all” allows communities to develop local solutions to local issues
- Builds on people’s shared views and common goals to achieve a preferred community vision for the future
- Community members working together to deliver new and improved facilities and services, and increase participation through social and economic activities





Key elements of success

Partnerships

- Strong partnerships with Local Government and community
- Foster and maintain strategic partnerships
- Maximise outcomes from current partnerships
- Actively seeking new partnership investment opportunities
- Relevant people/organisations at the table





Key elements of success

Governance

- Steering committee composition - community members (at least 50%), state, local & commonwealth govs, philanthropy orgs, corporate and small business sectors, financial institutions
- Skilling committee and project members
- Community decision making process





Key elements of success

Sustainability

- Embed 'sustainability' in thinking and planning
- Build on current achievements
- Community driven sustainability planning
- Position useful CBI structures and processes to continue beyond funding period
- Utilise and maximise outcomes from current partnerships
- Position project activities early with strategic partners to ensure effective results



Key Learnings

- Community development at the 'grass roots' level' takes time and requires a wide range of support
- Levels of understanding of the 'planning processes' and 'time' varied significantly between CBI members
- The ownership & commitment of local councils is one of the major critical success factors
- Capacity-building interventions were needed very early in the process and to be on-going
- It was very important that a dedicated set of funds were available just for the CBI's – 'essential oil for the process'
- Many groups and individuals identified significant projects – rather than smaller projects where a sense of achievement would provide encouragement





Next Steps

The CBI programs finishes during 2010, with some extensions into 2011.

The MSCA Funding program concludes at the end of 2010:

A Transition Program is available for all CBI Communities, namely:

1. Support for Local Councils to continue the CBI Coordinator position for up to 12 months
2. Support for an existing community organisation to continue the CBI Role for up to 12 months
3. Support for CBI groups to become established as entities in their own right





Conclusion

Using these funds as a basis to leverage support, provides opportunities for communities to explore new connections involving collaboration between business, organisations and government to achieve their community project goals.

- High level community participation
- Communities drive locally
- Communities working together, strategically, and thinking sub-regionally
- Partnerships achieving successful outcomes
- Positioning for the future – sustainability

Macpherson Smith Community Alliance - Government, Philanthropy, Councils and small rural towns working together





Further Information

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