

Media Release

3 July 2011

## **Four councils in the Benambra Electorate are to share \$405,000 to improve sustainability in the region**

The Member for Benambra Mr Bill Tilley today congratulated Indigo, Alpine and Towong Shires as well as the City of Wodonga for securing funding for specific projects.

The Reduce, Green and Sustain – Next Generation Procurement Project is one of 57 projects across Victoria that will empower local communities to develop strategic responses to sustainability issues and provide practical opportunities to improve our environment.

One project, to receive funding, is a joint effort by the Indigo, Towong, Alpine, and Mansfield Shires and the Benalla Rural City is looking at purchases by Councils that follow Coalition Government's sustainable initiatives said.

Mr Tilley quoted the Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith by saying that the Victorian Coalition Government has invested \$5.67 million to improving our environment through the Local Sustainability Accord grants program.

"The Local Sustainability Accord program supports local communities to create local solutions for sustainability and environmental challenges.

"The program encourages local governments to provide innovative and practical solutions to improve sustainability through projects that create jobs, educate and improve best practice guidelines for households, industry and government," Mr Tilley said.

The Accord program comprises three categories of funding:

- Regional Grants – funding of up to \$600,000 to successful regional councils.
- Partnership Grants – funding of up to \$250,000 for partnerships between councils, organisations and industry.
- Individual Grants - funding of up to \$45,000 to individual councils.

Funded by the Sustainability Fund, \$3.9 million has been committed to 42 Individual Grants and 11 Partnership Grants and \$1.7 million has been committed to 4 Regional Grants funded by the Regional Growth Fund.

Mr Tilley said Minister Smith would be soon be announcing the Coalition Government details on rolling out its promised \$20 million Community Green Fund program.

For more information about the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord, visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/accord](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/accord).

Individual grants awarded throughout Benambra are detailed below:

**TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL**      Towong Shire Council Sustainability Strategy - Triple Bottom Line Outcomes.

Towong Shire Council, through the development of a Sustainability Strategy, will set a new direction for the organisation in the implementation of cutting edge Economic and Environmental actions that build on landmark projects such as Pure Towong Energy. These actions will demonstrate the mutual benefit of environmental and economic development projects working in concert to ultimately build sustainable communities and local economies.                      \$45,000

**ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL**      Alpine Shire Environment Strategy.

The project involves the development of an Environment Strategy to lead the direction for which Council will respond to environmental issues facing its communities.                      \$30,000

**INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL** Mapping & Brokering Local Energy Solutions in Indigo.

This project will examine the renewable energy potential that exists throughout the municipality and identify opportunities to broker local energy solutions. It will do this by mapping the biophysical attributes of the Shire and identifying the range of renewable energy sources they can provide. The project will also include a stock-take of industry to identify potential waste to energy sources. A minimum of two local renewable energy action plans will be developed for identified partnerships.                      \$45,000

**WODONGA CITY COUNCIL** Sustainable Water Management Bonegilla Migrant Experience (BME)

This project will improve water use efficiency and provide a sustainable long term solution by moving away from the current supplied water resource use at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience through the installation of a water storage tank capture system with a combined total storage capacity of 200,600 litres (using rain water tanks, an electrical pump and an integrated pipe and gutter system).                      \$45,000

Lead Council:    **INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL**    Reduce, Green and Sustain - Next Generation Procurement

Partner Councils:

Towong Shire Council, Indigo Shire Council, Alpine Shire, Rural City of Benalla and Mansfield Shire

Partner Organisations: ECO-Buy Limited

It has been identified by the partner Councils that while there are a range of State Government driven initiatives occurring at a regional level in relation to environmentally sustainable procurement and sustainable social procurement that these programs are solely focused on higher level strategy development. This project focuses on translating these high level strategic objectives into real world results. This project is unique in that it greatly expands on the traditional approach to sustainable procurement, which typically focuses only on the 'greening' of the supply chain. The two phase project is structured so that the measured outcomes of the first phase are easily replicated in the expanded second phase and therefore overcomes a fundamental barrier to project replication.    \$240,000

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