**RHCA Annual General Meeting**

**Questions and Answer session with our guest speakers:**

RHCA welcomed two guest speakers - Jacqui Salter and Jim Goddard. Copies of both presentation slides are available on the RHCA website.

**Jacqui Salter,** community environmental education coordinator, Mornington Peninsula Shire spoke about local governments are leading the way in Australia with our climate change action. Objective is to reach zero emission by 2040 in Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Shire is helping residents with the following: bulk buys - google Mornington Peninsula Bulk Buy for details, they have a free Energy Advice Service for residents, Home Energy Kits and thermal imagery equipment available from local libraries from 1 December.

**Questions put on notice for Jacqui and responses**:

1. EV charging infrastructure locations *– PlugShare is the most common website used to locate chargers.  It is a community platform so anyone can add chargers.* <https://www.plugshare.com/> *There is no single source for EV charging infrastructure in the future, however the ARENA Future Fuels Fund round 1 has been announced thus we know where a few more charging stations will be located:* <https://arena.gov.au/assets/2021/07/future-fuel-fund-maps.pdf>

Recycling bins in Red Hill public areas – *RHCA is actively encouraging the installation of recycling bins in Red Hill and are still awaiting an update from the Shire, which Jacqui will follow up.*

Burning off – What is shire policy for future? *The combustion of materials allowed when burning off, ie. dry and dead vegetation, results in greenhouse gas emissions (CO2) that do contribute to climate change. However, these emissions are not calculated in the emissions profile we have or any other emission profiles that we’ve seen for any municipality.*

*Restricting burning off would have a positive impact on climate change but the main issue is that there is no existing service to collect this waste outside of kerb-side green bins, which are not practical for properties that produce a lot of green waste. In addition, under current circumstances, restricting burning off would have implications for landowners, in that they would be required to pay to remove the waste. Alternative waste treatment methods to open air burning such as anaerobic digestion or waste to energy may reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly or indirectly, and these are being investigated by the Shire.*

Federal/state government reliance – *In accordance with the Shire’s Climate Strategy they will be advocating with the State and Federal Government.*

More sustainable/low energy housing requirements in new developments – what can planning department do? – *The Shire is responsible for administering the planning scheme, and also proposing amendments, whereas DELWP (State Government) sets the planning scheme and authorises or rejects any changes. Each of the issues below (any many more) are complex and there are many different considerations, and are part of separate projects to balance the approach (e.g. vegetation retention for biodiversity/shade/carbon sequestration vs removal for bushfire protection, passive design/orientation vs cost/design)*

*There is steady progress towards embedding Environmentally Sustainable Design into the planning scheme. DELWP published their ESD Roadmap at the start of the year and we understand they will be releasing the draft standards and objectives early 2022. MPS have an amendment to include ESD currently on hold waiting for the DELWP project outcomes, and more than 30 Councils have joined with CASBE to work on the Elevating Targets project, seeking to improve best practice of ESD. Any participation in a joint amendment is subject to Council decision. There are also current updates and reviews of the National Construction Code, NatHERS and other programs to improve our building stock.*

*It is worth noting there are many of the people working in this space including:* [Australian Architects Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency](https://au.architectsdeclare.com/)*and*[Australian Builders Declare Climate & Biodiversity Emergency](https://au.buildersdeclare.com/).

What energy saving incentives are available: *Bulk buy program, business have access to finance, supporting local income residents through energy savvy upgrades program, community energy program, plus state government rebates. There is also some ‘nifty gadgets’ to consider:* [*Smart Burn: Chimney Flue Cleaning , Halve Wood Fire Smoke, Cleans Potbelly Glass, Fire Burns Longer, Use Less Wood*](https://www.smartburn.com.au/)

**Jim Goddard** – eMPower – community de-carbonization and renewable energies network.
What we do between now and 2030 is critical on reaching our 40 or 50 target. Educate, enable, empower and engage with the community. Ensure equitable access to renewable energies and costs etcetera.

5 steps:

* Commit to 70 per cent commitment
* Fill out form survey about what is important to us in Red Hill by 2 December
* Create Red Hill 3937 group, and work part of eMPower
* Join eMPower network
* Work together to drive our energy emissions.

Questions:

1. Power company are upping charges thus is a disincentive – *It is duplicitous to have state-based targets then to allow distribution network to charge more and community groups can install batteries locally to circumvent this.*
2. What other communities have batteries case studies – *Yackandandah*
3. Tree coverage and solar effectiveness – *data from Solar Install based on satellite technology is accurate, suggesting not working for 30 per cent of our population.*
4. Overseas case studies – *German and Europe ahead of us on climate change, community energy groups,*