

We **ARE**, We **DO** and
We **ENGAGE**

**Just Transition South Gippsland - Strategic Plan
September 2021**

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We respectfully acknowledge the Bunurong and Gunaikurnai peoples on whose unceded lands we live, work and play. We acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging, their Spirits and Ancestors as respected custodians of the land.

First Nations First

There can be no climate justice without First Nations justice. More than a slogan, we understand that 'solving' the issue of climate change isn't about changing one aspect (carbon emissions) and leaving everything else to continue as it has been. That path was, and continues to be a disastrous one for First Nations people, including the Gunaikurnai and Bunurong

There is no way out of the climate emergency without recognising that the challenges we are facing to our way of life (whatever that may be) are unprecedented. We are not an Indigenous led organisation, but we are committed to making space for First Nations self-determination.

Just Transition South Gippsland Strategic Plan, Guidelines and Processes

In August 2021, Just Transition South Gippsland (JTSG) released the JTSG [Roadmap](#), a narrative outlining the key aims and objectives of the movement.

The **We ARE, We DO and We ENGAGE** JTSG Strategic Plan details our vision, strategic priorities and areas of focus for a just transition to a low carbon economy in South Gippsland. It highlights the main actions we must take to deliver a new way forward.

This document also defines our evolving governance, communications, finance and membership strategies.

This Plan and the JTSG Roadmap remain works in progress. Both will continue to evolve. The JTSG Steering Group will review and update this plan on a quarterly basis. Understanding what has and hasn't worked, will allow re-prioritisation or adaptation of the strategy and initiatives.

This document is the result of many hours of work and effort undertaken by members of JTSG. We are extremely grateful for their contribution.



Ensuring a *just transition* for everyone

We are convinced that the revitalisation of community-council relations requires the adoption of the principles of participatory democracy. This will ensure wider public deliberation and decision making on the most critical issues for South Gippsland, while making the Council truly representative, transparent and accountable.

Specifically, we see an important continuing role for Advisory Committees in the development and endorsement of council policies and strategies such as those already used for the Visitor Economy Strategy and for Council budgeting, along with consultative communities its feedback.

We also see the need for a major joint-investment by Council and people of South Gippsland in preparing a vision of our region's economic future in a time of climate change and rapid technological transition.

Our journey so far...

Just Transition South Gippsland Timeline



Discussions began around the idea of a Just Transition for South Gippsland



Assembly 1 held

Website launched

Working groups formed



Assembly 2 at the Stony Creek Hall

Council Matters launched



Assembly 3 held

Council Matters campaign materials finalised and published 30 September



October 2021 - May 2022: Strategy transformed into a plan through partnering with unions, business, community, sporting and arts groups, as well as all levels of government.



Just Community newsletter launched

Appearance at the parliamentary inquiry into the *Steggall Climate Bills*

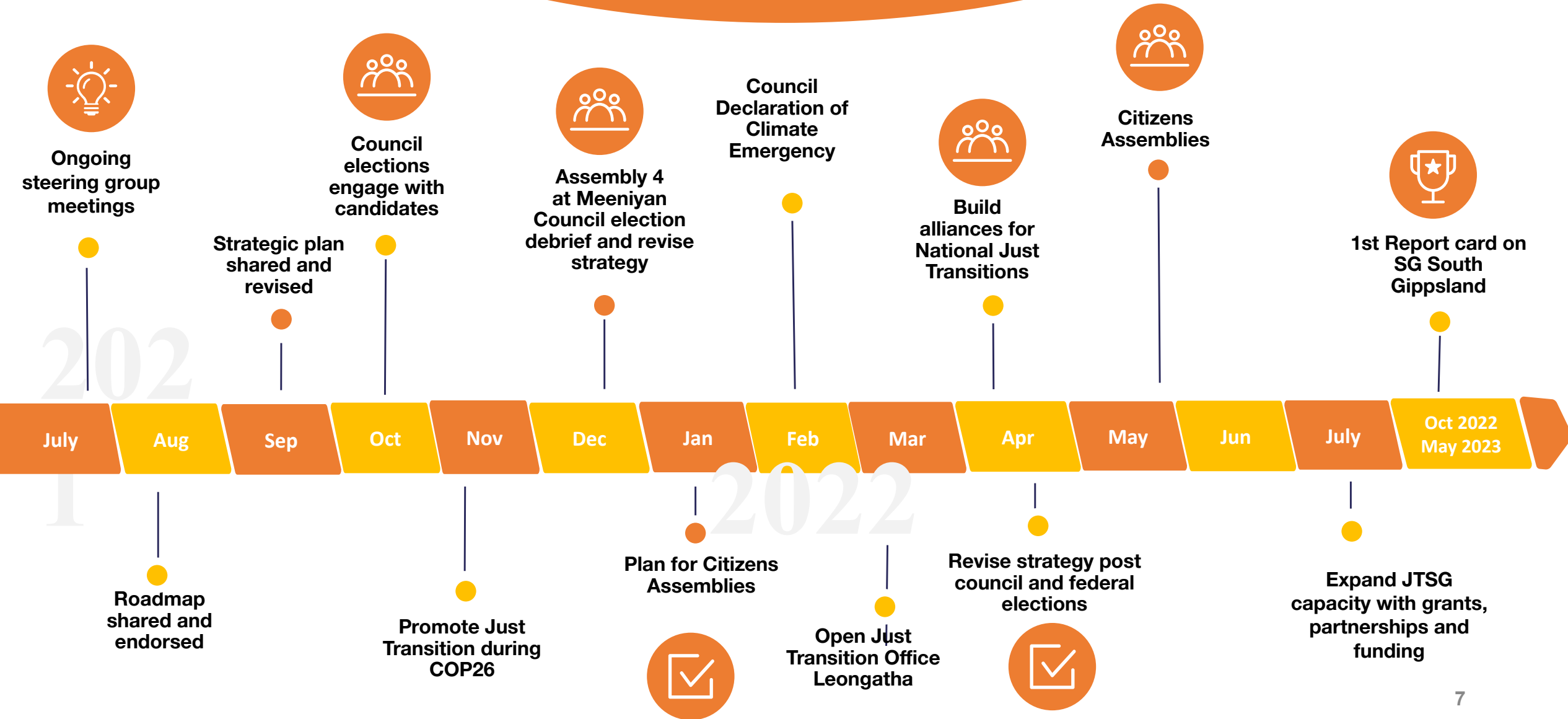
Write up in Act on Climate's *People's Climate Strategy*

Write up in *Transitions* magazine

August 28 - September 17, Council Matters Candidate Outreach



Our anticipated future journey... Just Transition South Gippsland Timeline





Our Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan is built on 3 Pillars

Who **We ARE**, What **We DO** and How **We ENGAGE**

- **We ARE** a collective of individuals, young, old, diverse and from all walks of life. We reflect the community of South Gippsland. We are guided by a belief and a set of values honed by a common vision for our region. That is, a low carbon, culturally rich, inclusive and prosperous community.
- **We DO** have a clear set of actions we must take as individuals, organisations or institutions in order to provide protection from the impacts of a warming planet for the benefit of people, our economy, species, ecosystems and communities.
- **We ENGAGE** in a way that is true to our values, knowing that the challenges we face will require a collective effort from everyone within South Gippsland and beyond. We acknowledge that when all stakeholders are involved and work together for a common goal, we all win.

We ARE

Who We ARE

Our VALUES - Integrity, Respect and Inclusivity

The **WAY WE WORK** is engaging and respectful, with trust and clear communications. We focus on working together for the common good.

Our **VISION** is to contribute to South Gippsland becoming a leader in the equitable shift to a low carbon world ensuring that no person or family in the region is left behind.

GOVERNANCE – we are a grassroots movement and of necessity need to structure our efforts in a ways that are agile, responsive and easily adaptable. Adhering to our values and being in line with our strategy ensures a united coherent position whoever is representing the group.

We DO

What We DO

Continued...

Given the importance of these two aspects to the prosperity of South Gippsland, their interdependency, the considerable climate change impacts they face, we have prioritised both these matters. Further, when these areas are in harmony we are addressing our ecosystem, biodiversity, land rehabilitation, land conservation and sustainable economic development and creating a legacy for future generations.

Regenerating the natural environment while at the same time developing food and farming in South Gippsland is a way to dissipate the impacts of a changing climate while enriching the human and natural systems within the region.

In order to achieve this, the South Gippsland Council must take a leadership role in advocating and actioning change. JTSG see the Council's climate change agenda as a significant priority and, as such, it is called out as some of the primary actions in this Strategic Plan.

1. INITIATIVE TITLE

Specific Council Climate Action 1/2






2. RATIONALE

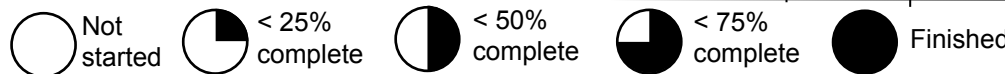
By 2030 the energy sector in the South Gippsland Shire contributes significant progress towards a net zero carbon emissions target, with all stakeholders fairly and equitably contributing to and benefiting from the outcomes.

3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Local government has a key role to play in developing a plan to transition South Gippsland to a low-carbon region. The transformation of the region into a sustainable, democratically empowered, culturally rich and prosperous community that's well positioned to respond to the current and future challenges of climate change.

4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS

Milestone / Action	In charge	Dead line	Progress
Via advocacy, JTSG ensures the Council:			
1. declares a Climate Emergency and commits to an emissions reduction pledge under the Victorian Climate Change Act 2017	SG	Q1-22	
2. as a precursor to the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP), conducts a Citizens' Assembly on the long-term vision for South Gippsland with all stakeholders represented	SG	Q2-22	
3. commits to a community advisory role in the development and endorsement of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) that aims to reduce emissions in line with the Victorian State Governments Climate Change Strategy, with a net zero goal by 2050	SG	Q1-22	
4. develops and lodges its pledge in the form of its CAP (from its Environmental Sustainability Strategy) within 6 months of the declaration of a climate emergency, that at a minimum includes: citizen mobilisation, innovative climate solutions, adaptation and resilience plans, and research and strategy.	SG	Q3-22	
5. ensures the CAP includes a commitment to clear objectives, timelines and quantitative measures of progress, e.g. an annual shire-wide audit of greenhouse gas emission reduction.	SG	Q2-22	



5. KPIs / METRICS

1. Declaration of a Climate Emergency
2. Citizens Assembly conducted with all key stakeholders engaged
3. Community Advisor role established for the development and endorsement of the Climate Action Plan
4. Climate Action Plan adopted by Council
5. Partnership established

6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED






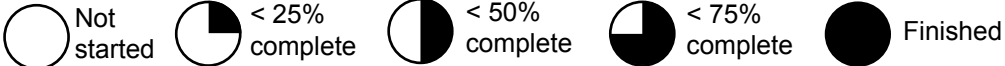
- Community Advisor
- Councils operating budget allocation
- Volunteers
- Grants

7. REVIEW FREQUENCY

Quarterly with Steering Group

8. OWNER

JTSG Steering Group

1. INITIATIVE TITLE	4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS				5. KPIs / METRICS
<p>Developing Food and Farming 1/2</p>	<p>Milestone / Action</p>	<p>In charge</p>	<p>Dead line</p>	<p>Progress</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> System implemented to incentivise farmers % of Shire allocated to biodiversity Reduction of land clearing across the Shire. Forestry and Fishing included in respective Council plans
<h3>2. RATIONALE</h3>	<p>Through advocacy ensure the Council:</p>				<h3>6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED</h3>
<p>'We acknowledge the role that farmers have, and are playing, in agricultural stewardship and recognise that upholding the public good by caring for natural assets will become difficult and more costly as weather events, amplified by climate change, impact on the health and integrity of the natural environment, but also on farm incomes.' (McRobert et al., 2019).</p>	<p>1. encourages better land management by providing incentives (such as rate relief) for farmers and food producers who adopt practices that enrich the natural environment, improve sustainable agriculture, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>				<h3>7. REVIEW FREQUENCY</h3> <p>Quarterly with Steering Committee</p>
<h3>3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS</h3>	<p>2. delivers a year-on-year increase in the proportion of private and public land set aside for biodiversity conservation. This could be modelled on the successful Rural Land Management program introduced in Bass Coast Shire</p>				<h3>8. OWNER</h3> <p>JTSG Steering Group</p>
<p>Council has recently endorsed its Environmental Sustainability Strategy Framework 2021 which proposes the detailed development of three individual actions plans for the following focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Sustainable Land Use and Biodiversity Waste and Resource Recovery <p>Council intends that these action plans will set targets, specify actions, and detail desired outcomes relevant to each sector.</p>	<p>3. commits to stronger enforcement, monitoring, and reporting of land clearing within our region. This should include increased education and training for landowners about their rights and responsibilities and strict enforcement of native vegetation removal legislation by council.</p>				
	<p>4. ensures that sustainable forestry and fishing practices are incorporated in the Sustainable Land Use and Biodiversity Plan</p>				
	<p>Actions Ensure Council involves JTSG in the development of these plans.</p>				
					

1. INITIATIVE TITLE

Specific Council Climate Action 2/2



2. RATIONALE

By 2030 the energy sector in the South Gippsland Shire contributes significant progress towards a net-zero carbon emissions target, with all stakeholders fairly and equitably contributing to and benefiting from the outcomes.

3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS

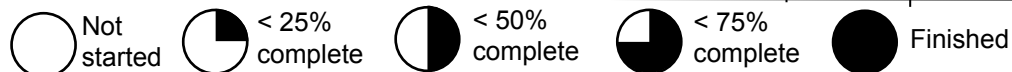
Local government has a key role to play in developing a plan to transition South Gippsland to a low-carbon region. The transformation of the region into a sustainable, democratically empowered, culturally rich and prosperous community that's well positioned to respond to the current and future challenges of climate change is the goal.

4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS

Milestone / Action	In charge	Dead line	Progress
6. JTSG commits to establishing partnerships with Council and research organisations to determine a carbon baseline and an ongoing framework for carbon measurement in our region.	SG	Q2-22	
Actions	SG	Q2-22	

Actions

- Support Candidates that commit to the above actions
- Assist in drafting a suitable Climate Pledge and a Climate Action Plan Framework
- Attend and observe Council Meetings
- Develop facts and arguments to support pro Councillors around climate action
- Lobby Councillors
- Have representatives attend all public climate forums
- Campaign through all media for the Declaration/ Advisory Position, Plan and Partnerships
- Work towards a digital framework for mapping SG for carbon budgets, land use, green businesses, circular waste management



5. KPIs / METRICS

Refer previous page

6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED

Partners and IT support for carbon mapping, community participation in a digital SG

7. REVIEW FREQUENCY

Quarterly with Steering Group

8. OWNER

JTSG Steering Group

1. INITIATIVE TITLE	4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS				5. KPIs / METRICS
<p>Developing Food and Farming 2/2</p>	<p>Milestone / Action</p>	<p>In charge</p>	<p>Dead line</p>	<p>Progress</p>	<p>Refer to previous page</p>
<h3>2. RATIONALE</h3>	<p>JTSG establishes an Education and Outreach program that includes:</p> <p><i>An ongoing engagement with key players in the food supply chain within South Gippsland including engaging with and supporting local processing.</i></p> <p><i>A program of Kitchen/Farm Shed environmental conversations with farmers and producers large and small. The goal will be to produce information and resources within twelve months on energy use (audits etc), soil management, breed and feed, and waterways and biodiversity management.</i></p> <p><i>JTSG applies for a grant from council, state or federal government to cover printing and associated costs with the above "conversation" program.</i></p> <p><i>Identification of model projects that could be used to demonstrate improved environmental practices</i></p>				
<h3>3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS</h3>	<p>○ Not started ◐ < 25% complete ◑ < 50% complete ◒ < 75% complete ● Finished</p>				
<p>Council has recently endorsed its Environmental Sustainability Strategy Framework 2021 which proposes the detailed development of three individual actions plans for the following focus areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Climate Action ● Sustainable Land Use and Biodiversity ● Waste and Resource Recovery <p>Council intends that these action plans will set targets, specify actions, and detail desired outcomes relevant to each sector.</p>	<h3>6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED</h3> <p>Refer to previous page</p>				
<h3>7. REVIEW FREQUENCY</h3> <p>Quarterly with Steering Committee</p>					
<h3>8. OWNER</h3> <p>JTSG Steering Group</p>					

1. INITIATIVE TITLE

Regenerating the Natural Environment







2. RATIONALE

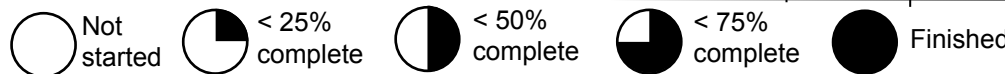
Our natural environment is fundamental to our health and wellbeing and is essential for its productive industries such as the agriculture and tourism sectors. The maintenance and regeneration of biodiversity is the key to healthy forests, waterways, and marine ecosystems, which are in turn central to carbon capture.

3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Simply maintaining South Gippsland's biodiversity at its current levels is insufficient. Action to actively enhance and secure local ecosystems, particularly in the face of climate change, is essential. Greater collaborative efforts are required with relevant stakeholders to secure South Gippsland as a relatively water secure area and biologically significant refuge

4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS

Milestone / Action	In charge	Dead line	Progress
1. <i>JTSG supports the development of partnerships as a way of maintaining South Gippsland as a relatively water secure area and biologically significant refuge</i>		Q2-22	
2. <i>JTSG supports and works in partnership with the Council, Bunurong and Gunaikurnai communities and the community organisations in supporting cultural land management practices, including fire management.</i>		Q3-22	
3. <i>JTSG advocates Council establish a partnership between the Council and Catchment Authorities</i>		Q2-22	
4. <i>JTSG reviews the South Gippsland Councils Sustainability Strategy Planning with a view to tackling the gap between development and protection of ecosystems and biodiversity</i>		Q3-22	
5. <i>JTSG identifies actions the Council could take to support State-wide plans to ensure the use of fit for purpose water encouraging the use of recycled water and stormwater.</i>		Q4-22	
6. <i>JTSG develops a position on how the Council could incentivise landowners and in particular farmers to restore the natural environment.</i>		Q3-22	



5. KPIs / METRICS

1. New partnerships created and operative
2. Key findings and recommended actions following review of Environmental Sustainability Strategy
3. Measures adopted by Council to incentivise landowners for enhancing areas of natural environment.
4. Number of effective partnerships established
5. JTSG reports on water and landowner incentivisation

6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED

Research workers/Interns/Graduates

7. REVIEW FREQUENCY

Quarterly with Steering Group

8. OWNER

JTSG Steering Group

1. INITIATIVE TITLE

Other High Impact Areas of strategies for a just transition

2. RATIONALE

With limited resources we have chosen to initially focus on a couple of areas that we believe can have the greatest impact, namely Food and Farming and the Natural Environment.

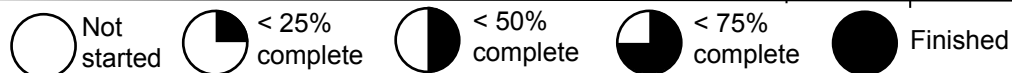
Other 'high impact areas' are an integral part of our roadmap. There will be times when these matters will be brought to the fore and in some cases the outcomes from our lead priority areas will potentially have consequential benefits.

3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS

Produce a set of Information Sheets on high impact area topics and establish a review mechanism to ensure their currency.

4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS

Milestone / Action	In charge	Dead line	Progress
<p>1. Develop a set of Information Sheets for each of the high Impact Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business and Tourism, Transport, Work, Education and Training, Energy efficiency, Biodiversity, Housing, Health and care and Sports and the arts. <p>In a standard format, the information sheets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background on the topic JTSG position 3 key messages when talking about this topic A testimonial Some data points JTSG actions and anticipated outcomes <p>Establish a mechanism for updating and reviewing the documents.</p> <p>2. Develop actions for remaining elements of the roadmap 'a place we are all happy to call home' South Gippsland (adobe.com)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular economy plan Sustainable water use plan Broader engagement with democratic processes 	SG	Now	○
			○



5. KPIs / METRICS

Complete set of information sheets

6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED

- Printing of materials

7. REVIEW FREQUENCY

6 monthly review by Steering Group

8. OWNER

JTSG Steering Group

1. INITIATIVE TITLE

Develop new initiatives not yet part of JTSG strategy



2. RATIONALE

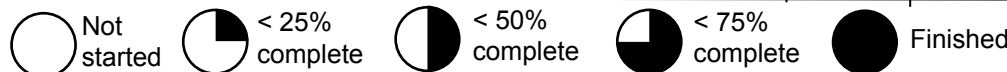
JTSG has brought SG community together and identifies strengths and themes from the region aligned with Just Transitions. It has also identified gaps and areas where we need to recruit and partner with new people to benefit a broader just transition. Major transitions are also part of pandemic response adjustments, looking to new ways to develop the region

3. DESCRIPTION & GOALS

JTSG is novel in it's goals of social justice in action on decarbonization and environmental protection by not being primarily driven by trade unions, reflecting the non-unionized nature of work in SG. SG forestry is an industry that should be part of a JTSG program. Ecotourism must be a major opportunity as community values change supporting the environment and action on climate change and in response to more social distanced life under covid. A just and effective plan involving locals is needed.

4. KEY MILESTONES / ACTIONS

Milestone / Action	In charge	Dead line	Progress
1. JTSG will regularly review its strategy internally and externally to identify gaps and new opportunities.	SG	Q2-22	
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find external groups to review strategy and give advice. Run and assembly/workshop to progress detailed strategy and add new ideas Approach trade unions, business and academics Develop and add new strategies by growing a more diverse cohort of participants and ideas. 	SG	Q2-22	
2. JTSG promote SG forestry transition			
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with forestry industry of workers and determine if partnering is feasible Engage trade unions through Victorian Trades Hall to seek feasible regional engagement beyond transitioning fossil fuel workers Engage with Yarram sustainable timber group and other locals 			
3. JTSG promote ecotourism development in SG			
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposals for growing ecotourism Engage Star of the South for regional approach for wind farm tourism linked to SG opportunities Engage with Victorian department of Environment of opportunities linked to Wilson's Prom 			



5. KPIs / METRICS

Refer previous page

6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED

Partner organisations and recruitment of new people from outside the current active list is necessary to add new initiatives

7. REVIEW FREQUENCY

Quarterly with Steering Group

8. OWNER

JTSG Steering Group

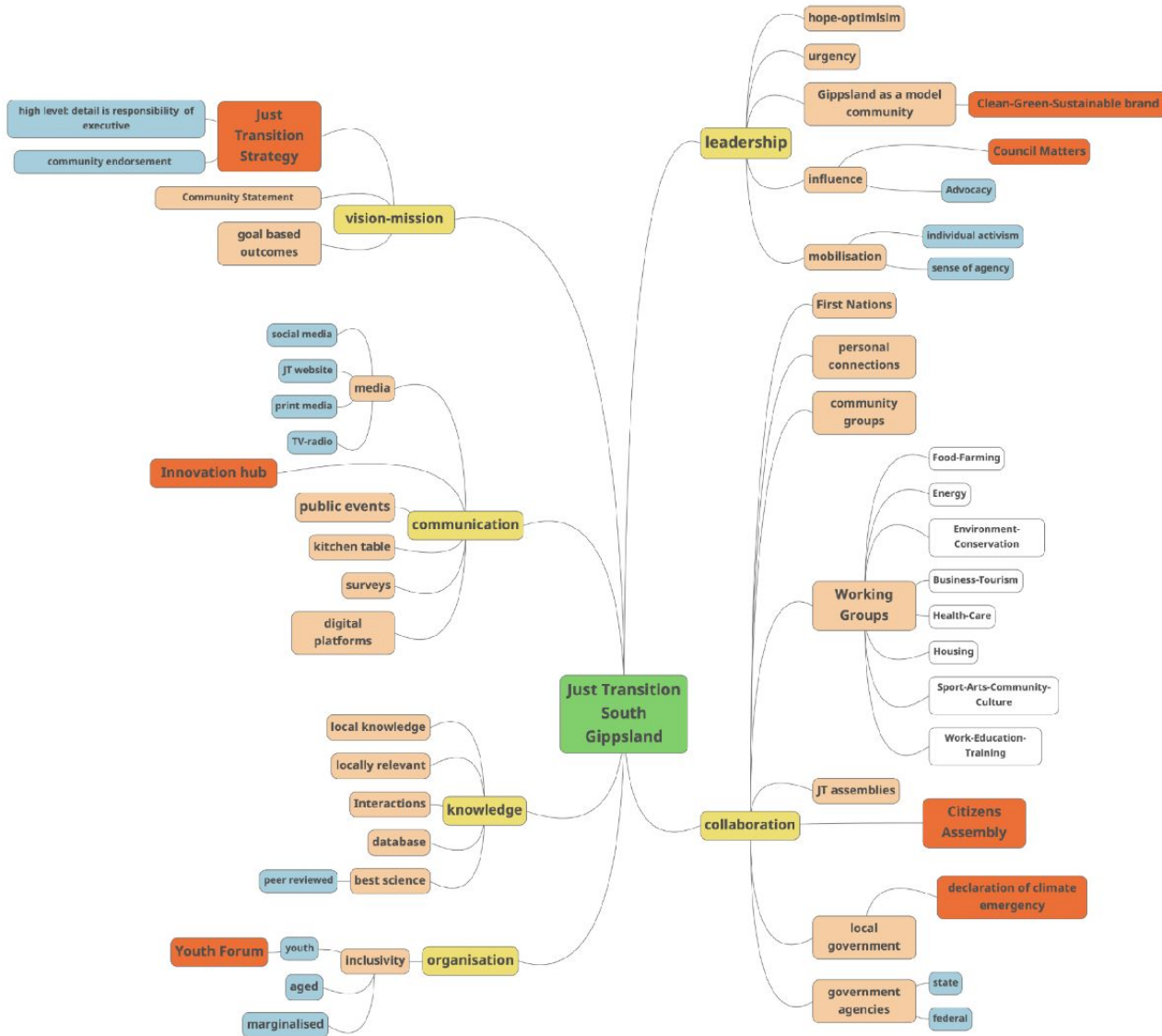
We Engage

How **We ENGAGE**

We Engage represents a desire to engage with all stakeholders. It also highlights our aim to bring about change by championing a different way to participate and engage that ensures all voices in the community are heard and respected and that no one in our community is left behind.

We speculate on a far wider engagement into the future knowing that Just Transition is become a national and international movement.

We ENGAGE - STRATEGIC ACTIONS



The mind map below represents a visualisation of the how JTSG views itself after the reflection of Assembly 2

Participatory Democracy

- Citizen Assemblies
- Farm Shed & Kitchen Table conversation
- Knowledge sharing

Stakeholder Engagement

- Collaborative partnerships
- Outreach programs
- Pilot Programs

Membership

Citizens organising to come together to engage in a discussion about shared issues and to create new ways to design and implement practical and innovative solutions.

Communication

More than just informing or promoting, JTSG believes communication must mobilize people to action, be it an individual initiative or a community wide undertaking. We must all act with a sense of urgency given that we are in a climate emergency.



Organisation

Funding and Status

A Funding sub committee of the Just Transition Steering Group will be created to develop strategies that can help fund and support the work that JTSG wishes to undertake.

Council Matters

In order to maintain a high degree of integrity and ensure no conflict of interest, a separate group was created called Council Matters. No prospective Councillor or any person supporting a candidate can be part of Council Matters. The purpose of this group is to identify candidates that are interested in pursuing the elements currently being proposed by Just Transition.



An invitation



Support - Join - Donate

The basic premise of JTSG is to create a platform that will bring together the amazing work and innumerable ideas already being generated across the region to chart a course that will help us mitigate and adapt to a changing climate together.

The expertise, the energy and the time that will underpin the transition can already be found in the South Gippsland community, and it's these resources that we have tapped into and will continue to draw on as JTSG makes the move to start putting what we have on paper into practice.

We thank everyone who has been involved so far and invite everyone else to get involved, support us and or donate, if you can.



Contact Information



RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE FROM THE GROUND UP

A Just Transition for South Gippsland

Website

<https://jtsouthgippsland.org/>

Contact details