



**South Coast Alliance Inc.**

*Leading sustainable economic development through collaboration.*

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# AGENDA

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**City of Albany  
Shire of Denmark  
Shire of Plantagenet  
Shire of Jerramungup**

**Friday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
Shire of Denmark, Council Chambers,  
South Coast Highway, Denmark 6333  
Commencing at 10.00am

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## 1. Opening

## 2. Record of Attendance & Apologies

### **Executive Committee (Voting):**

Mayor Dennis Wellington  
Cr Chris Pavlovich  
Cr Mark Allen  
Cr Jan Lewis  
Cr Jo Iffla  
Cr Julie Leenhouders  
Cr Rob Lester  
Cr Jon Oldfield  
Cr Greg Stocks  
Cr Len Handasyde  
Cr Ceinwen Gearon

Chairperson  
Deputy Chairperson  
Treasurer  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member  
Committee Member

### **Alliance Member Chief Executive Officers (Non-Voting):**

City of Albany (CEO)  
Shire of Denmark (CEO)  
Shire of Jerramungup (CEO)  
Shire of Plantagenet (A/CEO)

Andrew Sharpe  
David Schober  
Martin Cutherbert  
Paul Sheedy

### **Observers**

Nil

### **Apologies:**

Cr Chris Thomson

Secretary

### **Guests:**

Nil.

## 3. Declaration of Interest

## 4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

A Copy of the Minutes has been provided to all Committee members via email and through the members link available on [www.southcoastalliance.org.au](http://www.southcoastalliance.org.au)

That Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

## 5. Correspondence

### Inward

Various quotations to support the preparation of the budget.

### Outward

Various communications with CEO GSDC (Natasha Monks) to bring her up to speed on recent correspondence and outstanding items awaiting GSDC response (notably Workforce Planning and the GEM entrepreneurial ecosystem review)

## 6. Progress against actions from previous meeting

Item No	Meeting Date	Action	Responsible Officer	Status	Date Completed
60	17 December 2020	EO recommends KPIs more useful to set in conjunction with the strategic plan post Feb 2021 workshop.	Juliet Grist/Andrew Sharpe	Awaiting budget outcome. To be developed in conjunction with EO contract. Contract review due end March.	
64	27 November 2020	SCA undertake investigation for accreditation as an approved voluntary work provider with a view to being positioned to offer volunteering opportunities	Juliet Grist	Application documentation secured. Not yet proceeded with due to eligibility matters.	
65	17 December 2020	EO was requested to arrange Find my Fun to present to the SCA on implementation matters	Juliet Grist	EO Recommendation accepted to not proceed at this point. Budget allocation held over. ASCTi connected to app for review..	Funding held over in budget for 2022 financial year.

## 7. MAYOR/SHIRE PRESIDENT UPDATE TO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Albany Mayor  
Denmark Shire President  
Jerramungup Shire President  
Plantagenet Shire President  
Verbal report.

## 8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

### Face to face and notable zoom meetings

With	Topic	Outcome
Mayor Wellington	Proposed Budget and Agenda Discussion	Approval to issue to members
Lee Sounness, Cr Mark Allen	Proposed Budget Discussion	Treasurer able to form a recommendation
David Schober, Lee Sounness, Cr Mark Allen	Current position of SCA budget	Understanding of surplus available to be applied to initiatives this financial year. Confirmation of non-tax payer status for SCA
Marie Redman, Agata Sleeman, Susan McCabe – Amazing South Coast Tourism Inc	Data briefing on the size and impact of tourism to the SCA region by employment and output	Knowledge transfer to Amazing South Coast Tourism Inc to assist in the development of their value proposition
Craig Dew, Lindsey Campbell, Ricky Burgess (all directors of Elwood Charitable Investment Trust), David Moss (director Jack Family Charitable Trust)	Youth program	Task allocation. Allocation to SCA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– follow up UWA CSI for Impact Lab discussion</li> <li>- organise venue and catering for stakeholder discussion</li> </ul>
Paul Fleteau, UWA CSI	Impact Lab discussion	Information provided to Elwood CIT on next steps.
Mark Shenton, CEO Business Great Southern	Update on GEM/small business ecosystem analysis discussions	Information provided. Stakeholder engagement.

### Group Meetings and Events attended by EO.

Meeting	Outcome
Nil	

### Program Evaluations undertaken during the period.

Nil.

### Research Work undertaken during the period.

Some measures of financial vulnerability – see this Agenda.

### Engagement via ENews, surveys, social media and website

Website developed. Can now be accessed via [www.southcoastalliance.org.au](http://www.southcoastalliance.org.au) . Members area Completed. Login details issued to all Management Committee members.

## Commentary

Efforts this month have concentrated on the development of a budget (with options) to support the Strategic Plan elements that were supported at the February meeting. The order of priority for strategic plan initiatives was:

1. Youth
2. Energy
3. Innovation
4. Communication Dashboard

The Budget has been prepared based on a base line of core aspects that can be delivered based upon the existing budget, with the addition of options with associated costs for each focus area.

Other activity this month has been updating the new CEOs for GSDC and Business Great Southern on talks undertaken to date where tasks remain outstanding to ensure that we're all across who is doing what.

Following receipt of the report by the Amazing South Coast Tourism Inc. at last month's meeting I have also taken some time this month to provide an in person briefing utilising Remplan to provide ASCTi with relevant data to help the new team think about what their offering might be.

Spendmapp documentation has been provided for the three LGAs taking up the short term opportunity – Albany, Denmark and Jerramungup. Data should be available to these LGAs by the time of the SCA Board meeting.

Members may recall item 11.8 of the November 2020 Agenda papers:

*Councillors may be aware that the Federal Government has recently awarded \$5.1M to Regional Australia Institute, the bulk of which is being utilised to progress a 'move to the regions media campaign'. Great Southern also requires a workforce. CEO met with Director GSDC to discuss whether, with a better understanding of the workforce gaps, there may be an opportunity for the SCA to "piggyback" this media campaign and attract just the right collection of skills to our area. This would require a better understanding of current and future gaps, and likely require an integrated strategy (housing, spouse support etc).*

*Bruce Manning subsequently organised a meeting with the Department of Training and Workforce Development with a view to moving the Great Southern up the queue to have workforce analysis undertaken. Discussions were also held in relation to the SCA being able access additional data if that was available. GSDC and DTWD to liaise and a further meeting to be held in December.*

At this stage I am unaware of progress on workforce planning (which doesn't mean it isn't occurring), however I have updated CEO GSDC on where things were at and await an update.

Unfortunately, the Federal campaign is already upon us with Regional Australia Institute launching their **Move To More** campaign. 'Move to More' positions regional Australia as offering new residents more space, more career opportunities, improved quality of life and more bang for their buck when it comes to real estate.

The campaign website [movetomore.com.au](http://movetomore.com.au) has been launched. It contains information on each of the SCA towns you may wish to explore.

I believe there will be more media out about this over the next few weeks, but I regret that we are not ready to back that up with a targeted campaign. The Workforce planning work remains a priority though and I will continue to follow up with the GSDC.

In the interim, I look forward to the budget discussion and getting some substantive projects underway.

Juliet Grist

## 9. INFORMATION

### 9.1. CEO consulting/pro bono work

Standing agenda item – for transparency.

Organisation	Shire	Topic	Type
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	Shire of Denmark	Interim visitor servicing model analysis and associated report	Pro bono
WA Producers Cooperative	SCA geography	Board member	Pro bono
Noongar Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Western Australia	Sustainable funding model design	Consulting
Denmark High School	Shire of Denmark	Securing funding for Senior musical licence fee	Pro bono
Denmark Chamber of Commerce	Shire of Denmark	Worker Housing	Pro bono

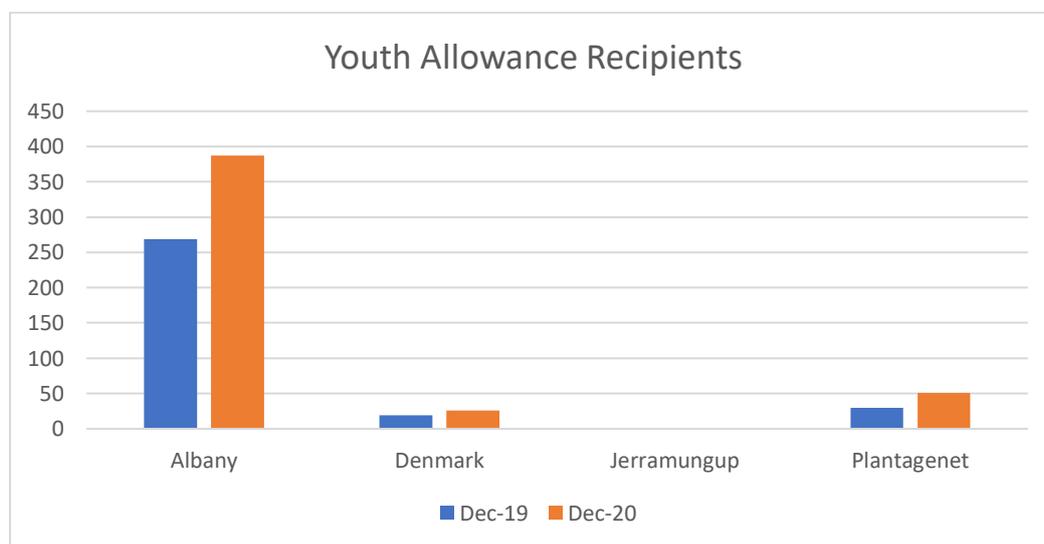
## 10. ECONOMIC UPDATE

### 10.1 Some Measures of Financial Vulnerability – Year on Year (seasonally adjusted)

The most recent data is as at December 2020 (data released quarterly). Please note that Covid-19 supplementary payments reduce from this month and so the following represents segments of the population that will be financially impacted.

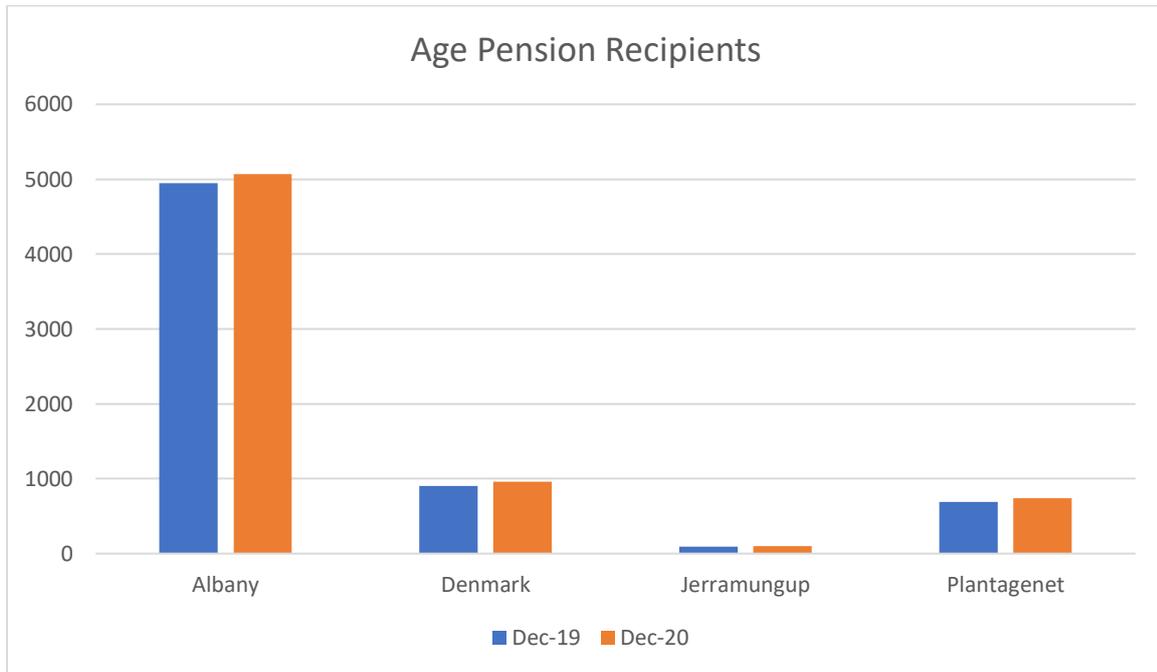
#### Youth Allowance

For all LGAs the number of Youth Allowance recipients has increased (Jerramungup remains below 5 in number). For Albany the year on year increase was, 60.6%, Denmark was 36.8% with the highest percentage rise experienced in Plantagenet at 70%.



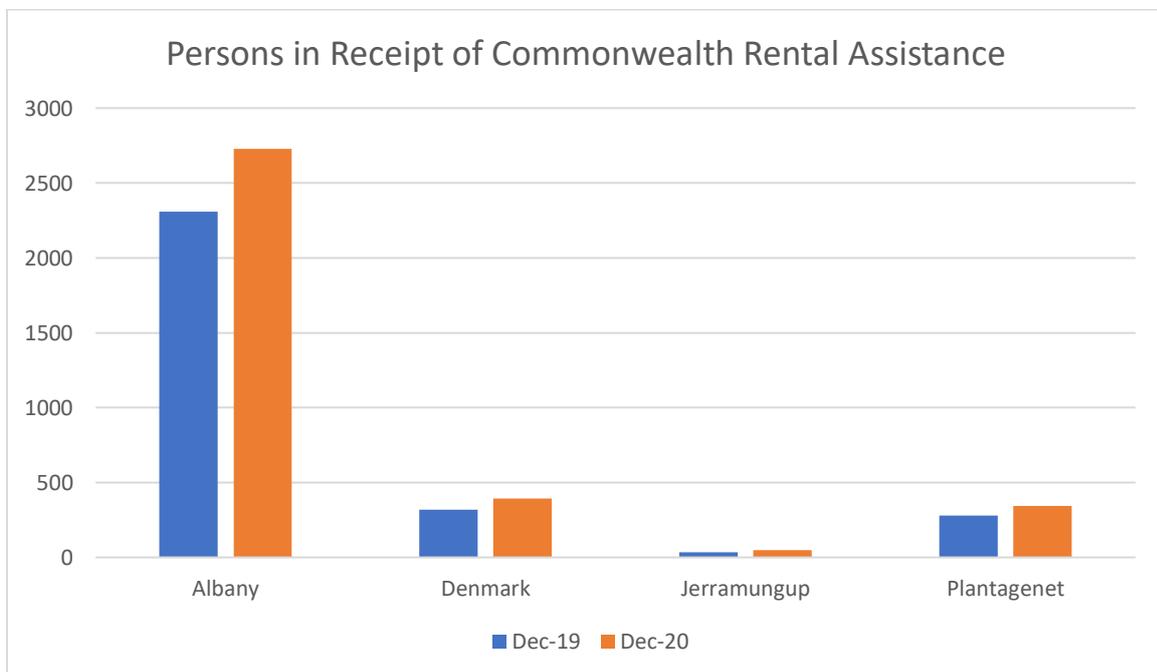
### Age Pension

All LGAs experienced a year on year rise of persons in receipt of the aged pension with a total increase across the SCA region of 3.5% of a total of 235 persons. This of course does not count self-funded retirees.



### Commonwealth Rental Assistance

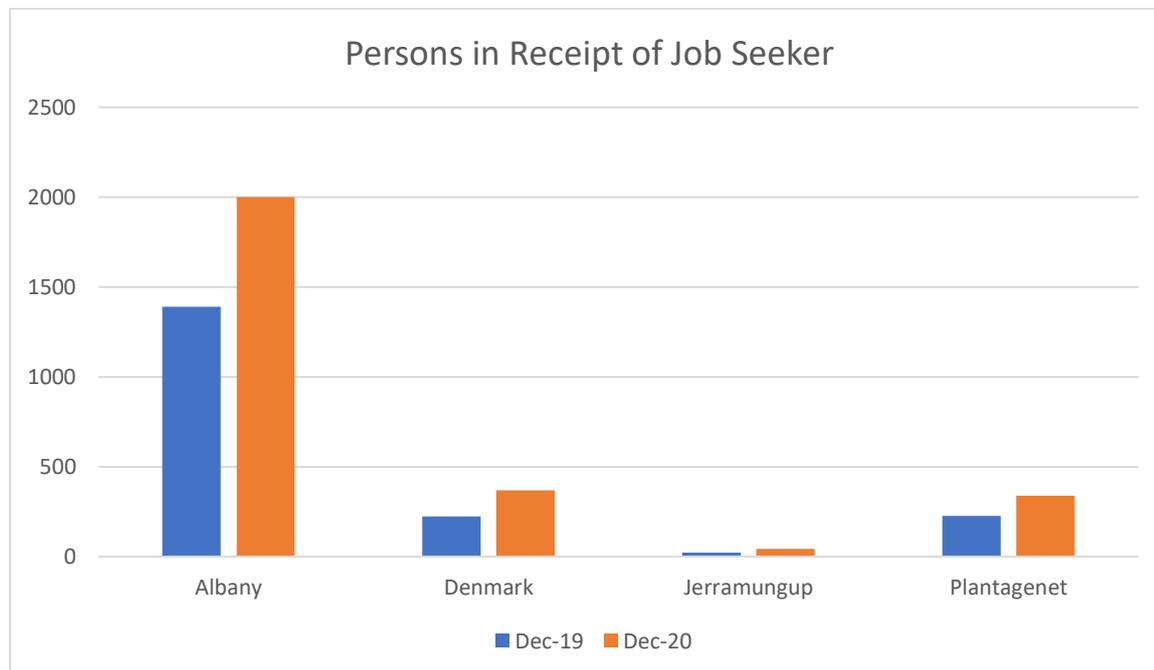
All LGAs experienced an increase in the number of people receiving commonwealth rental assistance compared to the same time in 2019, however the smaller LGAs were more impacted with each having an increase of more than 20%. The overall SCA rise of 19.5% was moderated by a lower 18% rise in the dominant market of Albany. Commonwealth Rental Assistance is an adjunct to other benefits so should not be added to the other numbers to obtain a total.



## Job Seeker

JobKeeper data has not been updated since September 2020.

Job Seeker data for year on year December 2020 indicates a rise in number across all LGAs with a 47.7% rise in seasonally adjusted numbers across the SCA region. Note that JobSeeker has a range of eligibility criteria (such as liquid assets) and so is expected to be an undercount of the actual number). The rise is represented by 888 individuals who will likely be significantly impacted by the reduced level of financial support from this month.



## 11. FINANCE REPORT

Financial Statements together with Financial Report and copy of Bank Statement have been provided via email and are available on the Members Area of [www.southcoastalliance.org.au](http://www.southcoastalliance.org.au)

### **FINANCIAL REPORT - 1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2021**

#### **Attachment Presented: Financial Statements**

**By:** Mark Allen

**Date:** Period ending 28 February 2021

The financial position of the South Coast Alliance Incorporated for the period ending 28 February 2021 is presented together with bank statement and supporting documentation.

The following disbursements were made in the period 1 February to 28 February 2021: Nil

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**It is recommended that the Financial Statements for the period ending 28 February be received.**

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Note:

- The January invoice to Rural and Economic Solutions (J Grist) for \$9,166.66 was paid by the Shire of Denmark and appears as an outstanding payable in the February Financial Statements
- The February invoice to Rural and Economic Solutions (J Grist) for \$9,166.66 is outstanding and due for payment in March 2021.
- The authorized signatories for the South Coast Alliance Bendigo bank account are unable to approve payments. Awaiting online profile authorization.

## 12. PROPOSED BUDGET

Financial year 2020/21 contains the year to date actuals and an estimate for the balance of the financial year. In addition, a budget for a program of action for the remaining quarter of this financial year is included, and more detail provided in item 12.1. A decision on the 2020/21 financial year expenditure is requested at this meeting.

Financial year 2021/22 is offered in two different formats:

- a. what can be delivered using 'as is' funding – this works on the contributions approved (not yet collected) at the AGM for each shire plus a carry forward balance from the current financial year.
- b. what the cost of the whole program would be if delivered in the 2021/22 year. This relies on additional contributions being made. The additional contributions are shown based on voting shares. The 2022/23 financial year follows on from this and counts the continuation of these programs.

The table is laid out in a way that I hope shows the current level of committed costs, and then allows you to see what the additional 'options' add to the budget cost. The difference between Option a and b is both the level of program for Innovation and Energy, and the inclusion of the Communication Dashboard. Option a. excludes the communication dashboard as an activity.

For discussion.

Line Item	2020/21 Financial Year	2021/2022 Financial Year	2021/2022 Financial Year	2022/2023 Financial Year
		As Is Funding	Proposed	Proposed
<b>Income Payments Agreed</b>	<b>220,595.32</b>	<b>186,371.00</b>	<b>186,371.00</b>	<b>333,750.00</b>
➤ Albany	114,980.00	94,950.00	94,950.00	
➤ Jerramungup	19,685.32	15,461.00	15,461.00	
➤ Plantagenet	37,980.00	37,980.00	37,980.00	

➤ Denmark	47,980.00	37,980.00	37,980.00	
Surplus carry forward		50,078.98	50,078.98	
<b>Plus Income Adjustment Proposed</b>				
➤ Albany			41,852.00	83,437.50
➤ Jerramungup			41,852.00	83,437.50
➤ Plantagenet			41,852.00	83,437.50
➤ Denmark			41,852.00	83,437.50
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>236,449.00</b>	<b>403,750.00</b>	<b>333,750.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Overheads – Contract EO Service (part year 2021)</b>	<b>66,666.64</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>100,000.00</b>
Comprising:				
Workers Comp insurance .5	284.09	284.09	284.09	284.09
PI Insurance .5	1,750.83	1,750.83	1,750.83	1,750.83
Public Liability Insurance .5	264.49	264.49	264.49	264.49
Zoom Access	217.03	217.03	217.03	217.03
Mobile Phone .5	370.84	556.26	556.26	556.26
Internet .5	359.96	539.94	539.94	539.94
Mileage actual to 9/3 3108.80km SCA journeys Estimate mileage March/April 1314.20 May June average forecast	4,670.69	7,006.03	7,006.03	7,006.03
Printing and stationery .5	849.11	1,273.66	1,273.66	1,273.66
Office rent notional .5	3,666.66	5,499.99	5,499.99	5,499.99
Research Cost paid by contractor .5	8,587.85	5,000.00	5,000.00	12,881.76
Equipment (back up laptop)	638.00	-	-	-
GST outgoings adjustment	(1,969.03)	(2,752.19)	(2,752.19)	(2,752.19)
Mandatory leave allowance (Continuous service arrangement)	3,631.62	12,401.32	12,401.32	12,401.32
Subtotal	23,322.14	32,041.45	32,041.45	32,041.45
Remainder: Wages	39,584.02	62,062.60	62,062.60	62,062.60
Superannuation	3,760.48	5,895.95	5,895.95	5,895.95
Sub total	66,666.64	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Accounting (year-end accounts)	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Research Paid by SCA (Remplan data sets)	4,000.00			

Contribution to Amazing South Coast	30,000.00			
Website Build then maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Find My Fun Mobile App.	45,000.00			
<b>Current Commitments Total</b>	<b>149,666.64</b>	<b>104,000.00</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>
Proposed Adjustments				
Find My Fun Mobile App and defer tourism expend	(45,000.00)	45,000.00	45,000.00	
Research Paid By SCA (Remplan data sets)		8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
<b>Options in Order of Priority</b>				
<b>Youth</b>				
Work with Foundations to establish collective impact framework for youth interventions.				
Sundry Expenses	350.00	949.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Liaise with UWA CSI for Youth Impact Lab est. cost \$120,000 paid by Foundations				
Other Youth Opportunities		10,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
<b>Sub total Youth</b>	<b>350.00</b>	<b>10,949.00</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>	<b>26,000.00</b>
<b>Energy</b>				
Establishment Energy Project				
Project Research/contractor	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Community Communication program		7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
<b>Sub Total Energy</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>32,500.00</b>	<b>32,500.00</b>	<b>32,500.00</b>
<b>Innovation</b>				
Map knowledge of current opportunity landscape in partnership with regional stakeholders – blue economy/green economy space. (see separate Agenda Item)	40,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Diversify WA opportunity		5,000.00	15,000.00	30,000.00

identification, mapping and engagement				
Liaise with 'outside' support - incubators CSIRO, For Blue, Meshpoints, et al to establish pathway. In kind and media	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Local story telling/case studies			20,000.00	20,000.00
GovHack sponsorship, industry prize base			5,000.00	20,000.00
Additional Management Hours		10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Subtotal innovation</b>	<b>40,500.00</b>	<b>35,500.00</b>	<b>80,500.00</b>	<b>90,500.00</b>
<b>Communication Tools</b>				
Dashboard			32,250.00	32,250.00
Data acquisition and build			50,000.00	25,000.00
Data 61 Support			10,000.00	
Rotating quarterly stakeholder breakfast briefings – ticket event to cover costs				
Create information flows with research organisations and commentators and disperse knowledge throughout the community.			2,000.00	2,000.00
Additional management hours			10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Subtotal Communication tools</b>			<b>104,250.00</b>	<b>69,250.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>170,516.64</b>	<b>236,449.00</b>	<b>403,750.00</b>	<b>333,750.00</b>
carry forward	50,078.98	nil		

## 12.1 Current Year Proposed Expenditure – Innovation

It is proposed that in the next few months funds be allocated to better understand the blue economy/green economy space. Budget allocation is over the current and next financial years (but within the next 4 months) to understand the opportunities for three priority projects for a total budget of \$60,000 (please note the quote for one priority is \$40,000 and I have recommended 3 over 2 years for a total of \$60,000 so that we can cover opportunities across both land and sea that are relevant for all 4 LGAs).

The scope suggested for the work is:

? Question answered	Outputs produced
<p><i>With a focus on the 'Blue' and 'Green' economy, what are the South Coast's: assets and comparative advantages, challenges and opportunities?</i></p> <p>e.g. ecological, social, political, technical, economic, infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing note: 5-page summary with appendices</li> <li>• Figures and tables: illustrating key opportunities, markets, relationships, alignment with national and international strategies and commitments</li> <li>• Database(s): (setup for project and beyond) contacts, interview responses, ABR data analysis</li> </ul>
<p><i>What are emerging Blue Economy industries, at the intersection of local strengths and global trends?</i></p> <p>e.g. seaweed aquaculture integrated into regenerative agriculture, sheep industry; integrated bio and ocean energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing note: 5-page summary</li> <li>• Figures and tables: illustrating key opportunities, markets, relationships</li> </ul>
<p><i>What are the 'economics' of these opportunities: total addressable market, local market, economic multipliers and unit economics?</i></p> <p>e.g. what are local and international markets for growing a Great Southern seaweed industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing note: 5-page summary</li> <li>• Recommendations: for three priority opportunities</li> <li>• Tables: economic analyses, assumptions and conclusions</li> </ul>
<p><i>For the THREE priority opportunities, what are the key limiting and enabling SUPPLY factors?</i></p> <p>e.g. for Seaweed - technical limitations, relevant species, production requirements, infrastructure, talent and IP needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries: 2-page summary for each opportunity of key factors and implications</li> <li>• Database: hypotheses and relevant evidence, risks and mitigation measures</li> </ul>
<p><i>For the THREE priority opportunities, what are the key limiting and enabling DEMAND factors?</i></p> <p>e.g. for Seaweed - known competitors, partners, policies, regulations, customers, investors, trends, value proposition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries: 2-page summary for each opportunity of key factors and implications</li> <li>• Database: hypotheses and relevant evidence, risks and mitigation measures</li> </ul>
<p><i>Who are the likely INVESTORS, PARTNERS and requirements for their involvement?</i></p> <p>e.g. for Seaweed, which funders, delivery partners, funding applications, or financing mechanism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortlists: of investors, partners, suppliers customers for refined business model</li> <li>• Business model: detailed for each of the three opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><i>Is there a BUSINESS CASE for further investment in pursuing these opportunities?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business case(s): combining other output (above) and additional to present coherent</li> </ul>

e.g. for Seaweed, what is the total investment required, public and private; what are potential private returns and public benefits; is there a long-term sustainable / profitable model?	<p>business case for each opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financials: high-level budget for investment from private and public investors in the next phase.</li> </ul>
<p><i>What are the recommended NEXT steps to advance the priority, viable opportunities?</i></p> <p>e.g. project plan, budget, scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>List: of possible funding sources ranked by fit, size etc.</li> <li>Project plan: actions, timing to advance this</li> <li>Budget: forecast for the project(s)</li> </ul>
<p><i>What resources and roles are committed to advancing this?</i></p> <p>e.g. facilitating next steps to secure funding, bring together project teams, dissemination and training in the use of tools, databases and models generated through this work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application: first draft of applications / proposals</li> <li>Team: committed team of collaborators</li> <li>Tools: suite of tools to advance the projects</li> </ul>

**EO Recommendation:**

***This work has been allowed for within the existing funding approved for the SCA and does not require any additional contributions.***

Undertaking this work early in the process will provide a good avenue for early engagement with the newly elected State Government, and for the shortly to be up for re-election Federal Government (media commentary suggests Spring 2021).

Approval of the budget allocation for the 2020/21 Financial year is requested at this meeting so that the work plan can commence.

**Decision:**

**12.2 Procurement**

If the budget is approved, we run into the challenge of not having a procurement policy nor any delegated authorities that enable the projects to commence.

It is proposed that an interim procurement rule apply pending submission and approval of a procurement policy at the May meeting.

The proposed interim procurement rule is:

1. Expenditure under \$10k can be approved by the Chair or the Treasurer so long as the budget item has already been approved.
2. expenditure above \$10k requires 3 quotes and then can be approved by Chair and the Treasurer together so long as the budget item has already been approved.

Items outside the budget approval:

3. Variations with value under \$5,000 can be approved by the Chair so long as the budget is adjusted to allow for them (this will allow for unexpected small opportunities).

This approval is different to the payment approval for the invoice, which is subject to the authorities existing on the bank account.

**EO Recommendation:**

This procurement rule is requested as an interim measure to allow for the progress of items that may be immediately approved that are within the current financial capacity.

**Decision:**

## 13. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

Regional Development Australia Great Southern and Great Southern Development Commission have advised they would prefer to provide an update of activities to the May meeting.

### 13.1 Business Great Southern

#### **South Coast Alliance Board Meeting – March 2021**

#### **Business Great Southern / Albany Business Centre**

#### **Update Report provided by EO Mark Shenton**

Tracy Bridges left BGS/ABC in December 2020 - New Executive Officer (Mark Shenton) appointed and commenced December 2020 for a smooth transition.

Mr Shenton has been appointed to bring stability to the centre whilst increasing F2F contact with potential/new business start-ups and increase the SBDC contract by incorporating medium/large businesses through further training.

Collaborations between all shires in the Great Southern remains paramount to be able to provide a unified package for Business Great Southern and this is currently being grown through further implementation of workshops within outlying Chamber of Commerce and CRC's together with business and government departments within Albany.

Fortnightly sessions through Denmark CCI, Katanning CRC and Mount Barker Shire/CRC are completed to assist new & existing businesses in outlying regions.

Mount Barker Shire have recently closed their small business department and are now running closely with the CRC to ensure that demand is met. BGS is undertaking new strategies with the CRC here to increase activities.

Denmark CCI remains the most proactive in the Great Southern to assist new and existing businesses and have regular Facebook live events of which BGS are a large part and consistently getting over 200 views.

Katanning CRC in conjunction with KRBA are undertaking new business training with BGS and local start-ups. They are also utilising BGS to host workshops throughout March & April for both new and existing businesses.

Whilst there was a decline in businesses requiring 'general' information during COVID-19, BGS has found that there is an upturn in the market and are now receiving more enquiries for business

advise across all aspects – from early set-up to marketing and sales, and from social media to accounting.

BGS are finding that predominantly new start-up businesses are based within the tourism and service industry (i.e. photography, cafes, events) however there is a healthy split of alternative markets that are being invested in (i.e. florist, education, therapy) which shows growth within the Great Southern and a good local economic influx.

There is however a significant shortage of ‘trades’ which is ever increasingly becoming an issue for redevelopment and maintenance of current infrastructure which could prove to be a major issue moving towards the end of 2021; with major contracts potentially being awarded outside of the region (and potentially out of the state) whilst minor works could easily be delayed. This is in part due to the federal housing scheme which has boosted works for builders (although it should be noted that most of these builders put their prices up rather than use this to increase employment), and also with upcoming projects through government lead infrastructure developments, partnered with domestic renovations bought about by travel restrictions.

COVID-19 bought its own set of issues however BGS remained vigilant to provide the correct direction and information across the region.

Business Great Southern has extended its contract with SBDC for a minimum further 3 years showing dedication towards the program.

## 14. GENERAL BUSINESS

## 15. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Location
Friday May 14th	12 noon	Shire of Jerramungup

## 16. CLOSURE