

BESS Prospectus

Save time and accelerate
sustainable development with
the Built Environment
Sustainability Scorecard (BESS)



bess.net.au

“Using BESS
will make it
much easier
for our planning
team to track
their sustainable
design targets.”

Cover Image: The Commons
Architect: Breathe Architecture
Photographer: Andrew Wuttke
Opposite: Elwood Green
Architect: MA Architects
ESD Consultant: Ark Resources

Donna D'Alessandro, *Coordinator Planning City of Port Phillip*



*BESS is an initiative of the Council Alliance
for a Sustainable Built Environment*

Introducing BESS – the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard

BESS is a new generation sustainable design assessment tool for buildings at the planning permit stage. BESS assesses energy and water efficiency, thermal comfort, and overall environmental sustainability performance of new buildings or alterations. BESS assists development applicants to demonstrate that their proposal meets sustainability information requirements as part of a planning permit application.

An initiative of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), this smart, web-based tool works seamlessly with local government sustainability planning policies.

BESS covers all major sustainable design categories and can assess any building type, enabling permit applicants to demonstrate how their proposed development addresses sustainability.



An assessment tool designed for the planning process

For many years, a dedicated group of Victorian councils have been encouraging their communities to deliver comfortable and sustainable buildings through the planning approval process.

This approach is known as the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process framework (SDAPP).

BESS supports the SDAPP framework, saving time and effort for both planners and the development community.

Key features:

- > Purpose built for Victorian councils and the planning permit process
- > Aligns with Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Local Planning Policies and the SDAPP fact sheets
- > Provides flexibility for the user while delivering sustainability outcomes
- > Facilitates a consistent framework and assessment of sustainability at the planning stage
- > Assesses any size or type of building via a single interface
- > Information required increases in complexity with the size and scale of the project being assessed
- > Nine sustainable design categories covered
- > Multiple options for demonstrating compliance, including in-built calculators, deemed-to-satisfy approaches and the option of alternative compliance
- > Location-neutral. Does not advantage or disadvantage a development based on location.
- > Standardised report streamlines the assessment process
- > Smart administrator functions to store and manage assessments
- > Aggregate data to track impact over time and for annual reporting to Council
- > Online help
- > Access to technical and administrative support



Supporting BESS

To support the management, maintenance and upgrading of BESS on an ongoing basis, an annual subscription fee is applicable for councils wanting to use BESS in their development communities.

By subscribing to BESS, planning permit applicants can prepare a BESS report for a site located within that municipality.

Please note that councils must be a CASBE member to subscribe to BESS. CASBE membership is a separate fee. BESS subscription enables industry use of BESS in your municipality.

Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment

CASBE relies on the financial support of local government. The CASBE Network of councils extends across Victoria, and is supported by the CASBE financial members.

To become a member, councils must sign the CASBE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Municipal Association of Victoria. The CASBE MoU's are effective for a three year period. New councils sign on to the remainder of that three year period. Annual membership fees are based on a council's planning and rates activity.

CASBE Membership benefits:

- > Support from CASBE staff
- > A position on the CASBE Steering Committee.
- > Access to free training sessions and material.
- > Participation in an important Council led initiative in sustainable built environments
- > Recognition in CASBE's ongoing advocacy activities

For membership rates or more information about CASBE membership please refer to the CASBE membership prospectus, or contact the CASBE Executive Officer at Municipal Association of Victoria +61 3 9667 5555 casbe@mav.asn.au



Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment

*Image: Saltwater Community Centre
Architect: Croxon Ramsay
Photographer: Diana Snape*

BESS subscriptions

Gold Supporter

Annual subscription fee

Open to any CASBE member council

\$10,000 + GST

Level 1

Income from planning permit applications is greater than \$300,000 or
Income from rates is greater than \$50m

\$7,500 + GST

Pro-rata (6 Month) option for new members

\$3,750 + GST

Level 2

Income from rates is between \$20 – \$50m

\$3,750 + GST

Pro-rata (6 Month) option for new members

\$1,875 + GST

Level 3

Income from rates is less than \$20m

\$1,000 + GST

Pro-rata (6 Month) option for new members

\$500 + GST

For more information
contact: BESS Manager
Municipal Association of Victoria
+61 3 9667 5555
casbe@mav.asn.au



Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) is supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria

BESS was developed with the support of the Victorian Government.



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