



Hamilton SierraCon
Social & Economic Consulting

Hamilton SierraCon
**Local Government and
Community Organisation**
Capability Statement

Services to Local Government and Community Organisations

This document summarises Hamilton SierraCon's expertise and capability to support local government and community organisation clients.

Hamilton SierraCon provides specialist consulting services for social and economic studies and projects which address the needs of clients and communities in Australia, Asia and the Pacific. We have been operating for over 13 years and have a strong track record in providing practical solutions in the following areas:

Preparing grant applications, funding proposals and business cases

Stakeholder engagement and community consultation

Project management and preparing project implementation plans

Social and economic impact assessment

Public policy review

Project/program evaluation and monitoring

Our Team

John Hamilton Director



John has 24 years' experience in undertaking social, economic and agricultural impact assessment, stakeholder engagement, community consultation, grant writing and preparing business cases. He also has extensive experience in project management, including projects involving multiple simultaneous tasks and tight timelines. John brings a range of technical knowledge and practical experience to addressing a variety of challenges in the government, rural, resources, agriculture and other sectors.

Emma McCulloch Consultant



Emma joined Hamilton SierraCon in 2023 and has been supporting John on a range of projects. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Politics, International Relations and Gender studies) and Master's in Public Policy and Management (near completion) from the University of Melbourne. Emma has previously completed two internships at other consulting firms, Dandolo Partners and KPMG, where she worked predominantly for government clients on a range of projects, including in the education, sustainability and justice sectors.

Partnering and Collaboration

Hamilton SierraCon also partners and collaborates with trusted consulting firms from around Australia, Asia and the Pacific and other regions to form multi-disciplinary project teams and to provide a range of locally appropriate services.





Preparing Grant Applications, Business Cases and Project Implementation Plans

Hamilton SierraCon has a strong track record of preparing business cases, grant applications and project implementation plans. This relies on clear, logical and concise communication which provides a strong and consistent basis for all content and assurance around project risks. We value working closely with clients to efficiently and effectively coordinate the compilation and presentation of information, supported by stakeholder engagement as required. This includes a very high win ratio on grant applications.





Key Project Experience

- Development of business cases, project implementation plans and funding applications for electricity projects in the Victorian Upper Murray Region, Upper Murray Incorporated and Indigo Power (engaged by Emergency Recovery Victoria). Funding secured: \$3 million, 2020-21.
- Preparation of separate grant applications for the Jamieson Community Energy Node Project, Tintalra Recreation Revitalisation Project, Towong Racecourse and Recreation Power Revitalisation Project and Mount Beauty Stadium Backup Power Upgrade Project for the National Recovery and Relief Agency (engaged by Emergency Recovery Victoria). Funding secured: \$311,500, 2020-21.
- Self-serve 24-hour Aviation Fuel Facility at Corryong Airport, Towong Shire Council. Funding secured: \$262,000 from the Regional Airports Program. Towong Shire Council, 2021.
- Preparation of the Sarsfield Community Hall and Recreation Reserve Business Plan, East Gippsland. Value of project to be implemented: \$3.6 million, 2020-21.
- Preparation of an application to Local Economic Recovery program for new netball-tennis courts at Buchan, Gippsland in line with the overall Buchan Recreation Reserve Masterplan. Funding secured: \$493,000, 2022.
- Completion of various other grant applications including Upper Murray Historical Society for two projects being the Museum All Abilities Access Project and the Museum Refurbishment Project to the BRV Community Facilities Program, Towong Hall Deck and Walwa Hall Acoustic Ceiling. Funding secured: \$100,000, 2022-23.





Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Services

Stakeholder engagement is critical to project success and effective risk management. We believe effective stakeholder engagement relies on clear, accurate and accessible information.

Hamilton SierraCon provides a range of best practice stakeholder engagement and community consultation services, reflecting the needs of Councils and local stakeholders. This includes the development of engagement plans which reflect Council principles, international best practice standards and the specific demands of regulators and other key stakeholders.

We help Councils to apply four key principles of effective engagement in a very practical way and engage with stakeholders effectively and respectfully.

Be proactive

Engage with stakeholders as early as possible to identify potential problems and find solutions

Tailor engagement to the scale of your project

Design engagement strategies to reflect the nature and significance of project impacts, and be prepared to adapt those strategies as your project develops or changes over time

Build relationships

Stakeholder trust requires continued investment in communications and confidence-building

Integrate engagement into project operations

Define clear management goals, responsibilities and resources and measure performance against project objectives





Key Project Experience

- Stakeholder engagement adviser across AlburyCity operations covering a wide range of traffic and infrastructure projects and community programs. AlburyCity, 2020.
- Development and application of a prospectus for the Corryong Airport Development, Victoria, Australia. This work included extensive consultation with airports and aviation industry business across south eastern Australia. Towong Shire Council, 2019-2020.
- Development and implementation of a community engagement plan regarding a proposed new weir (The Narrows Project) at Tallangatta, Victoria, Australia. This work included a combination of key informant interviews and community meetings, Towong Shire Council, 2016-2017.
- City of Wodonga, Sustainability Strategy Review 2021, with Point Advisory. This work provided a technical report, supported by staff workshops, to support the next iteration of the sustainability strategy and further alignment with the One Planet Living (OPL) principles, 2021.
- Review and development of a road map for community relations activities for Kagara Ltd's North Queensland operations. Kagara Ltd., Australia 2011.
- Audit of Landowner consultation, stakeholder engagement and complaints management procedures for the construction of a major water pipeline connecting Melbourne to water resources in northern Victoria, Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance, 2009.
- Engagement and consultation has also been a core component of many other project experiences listed in this capability statement.



Social and Economic Studies and Impact Assessments

Hamilton SierraCon applies methodologies and principles in social and economic analysis and impact assessment to a range of situations to help deliver better outcomes from investments. These studies are used to provide guidance on project development and prioritisation, to refine project design, to develop policy and to develop mitigations and initiatives for better community outcomes.



Project Experience

- Development of an Investment Framework for Public Works. This provided a guide to Council decision-making by outlining principles, criteria, supporting information and an approach regarding investment in public works. East Gippsland Shire Council, 2016.
- Agriculture Sector Analysis, Namoi Water for the Future Strategy, Namoi Unlimited (NSW Joint Organisation of Councils), 2019.
- Agriculture Impact Assessment for the Fingerboards Mineral Sands Project in East Gippsland, informed by consultation with landholders and agencies, Kalbar Operations Pty Ltd. 2017-2020.
- Development of the Thowgla Valley Land Rejuvenation Initiative Concept Plan, 2022.
- Social impact assessment of the proposed Second Murray River crossing at Echuca-Moama. This included conducting extensive consultation with education, local government, business, tourism and transport stakeholder organisations and residents. VicRoads, 2009.
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of Melbourne water restrictions on key industries, based on extensive stakeholder consultation, SmartWater Fund, 2008.
- Agriculture and business impact assessment of major sections of the Northern and Hume Highways in Victoria (including an appearance as an expert witness). VicRoads, 2005-07.
- Socio-economic study of current and future groundwater use in the West Wimmera Groundwater Management area (Economist and Project Manager). Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water, 2009.



Example Hamilton SierraCon deliverables

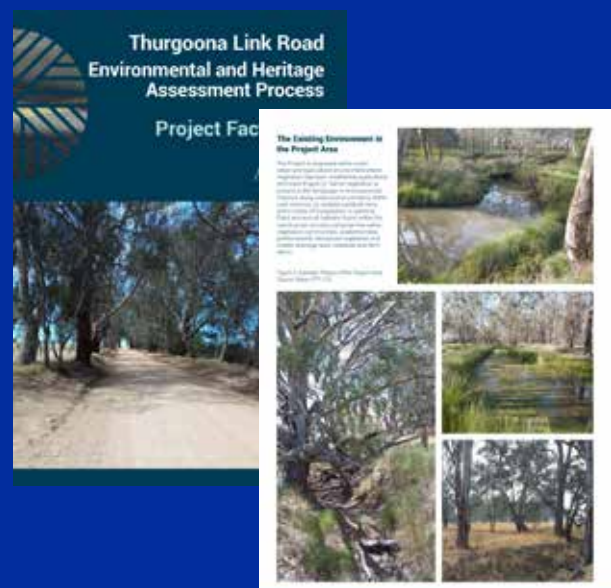
Prospectus prepared for the
Corryong Airport Development
for Towong Shire Council:

<https://www.towong.vic.gov.au/repository/libraries/id:2cvu1xfyg1cxb y8c14xc/hierarchy/Facilities/corryong-airport-development-prospectus-towong-shire-council.pdf>



Fact Sheet prepared for AlburyCity:

https://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/255846/Thurgoona-Link-Road-Factsheet.pdf



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