

Clear Horizon working towards a Sustainable Future

The Sustainable Futures team at Clear Horizon has been bringing the thinking, tools and principles of best practice M&E to support a diverse portfolio of progressive and innovative projects that aim to bring communities across Australia into a more Sustainable Future. Here is a quick overview of three projects we're currently excited about:

- M&E Planning for the Great Barrier Reef – Reef Trust Partnership.
- Evaluating Sustainability Victoria's Zero Net Carbon Homes pilot program
- Strategy and planning with the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Sustaining the Great Barrier Reef, the natural wonder of the world

Clear Horizon has been working to develop an M&E Plan for the Federal government's \$444 Million [Reef Trust Partnership](#) - the largest single investment ever made for the Reef. Clear Horizon led a diverse cross-section of Reef stakeholders through the process of developing an M&E Plan that will credibly demonstrate the outcomes and broader impact of the Partnership.

The Partnership aims to make a significant and measurable progress towards [the Reef 2050 Plan](#) outcomes. To do so, the investment presents a portfolio of six activity areas that aim to:

- Improve the quality of the water entering the Reef through activities across Reef catchments.
- Reduce coral mortality through controlling crown-of-thorns star fish outbreaks.
- Conduct science activities to support reef restoration and adaptation.
- Improve the engagement of Traditional Owners and the broader community in the protection of the Reef, and;
- Support the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program.

The whole portfolio has been designed so that activity areas interact with each other to leverage and enhance the outcomes for the complex and dynamic system.

To support the Partnership to achieve and demonstrate outcomes for the Reef, Clear Horizon facilitated good-practice M&E planning with a range of Partnership stakeholders. Designed with Reef managers, leading marine and social scientists, Traditional Owners, and state and federal government representatives, the resulting [Draft M&E Plan](#) presents a nuanced and fit-for-purpose approach to target and prioritise M&E activity.

With eight 2-day workshops over 2 months, the highlight was the opportunity to work with such a diverse range of passionate, professional and intelligent people working towards the real environmental and cultural change needed to ensure the largest coral reef system in the world continues to survive for future generations.

Tomorrow Living, innovation within Sustainability Victoria

Clear Horizon has been working with Sustainability Victoria to support the delivery of their [Zero Net Carbon \(ZNC\) Homes](#) Pilot program. With the objective of catalysing market transformation for ZNC homes in Victoria, Sustainability Victoria is working with Volume Home Builders to design, market and construct net zero emissions homes, and to pilot the innovative Tomorrow Living certification. The program is part of the Victorian Government's Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy 2017 (EE&PS).

The ZNC Home pilot program involves two distinct and interacting elements – the 'pilot', which involves rapid innovation and learning cycles; and the 'program', which has specific intended outcomes relating to influencing both the supply and the demand sides of the Victorian house market.

To support these two distinct elements, Clear Horizon is utilising both developmental evaluation to inform the innovation components, and more traditional summative and formative evaluation approaches to assess the program's performance and outcomes.

Since the program commenced, the developmental evaluator has been leading learning sprints with program stakeholders to inform the innovation and development of the pilot. Complementing the developmental evaluation, more traditional outcomes evaluation methods are being implemented to assess the performance and outcomes of the program. While these two approaches remain distinct, the learning sprints are also providing data for the outcome focused evaluation.

The highlight of this project has been the opportunity to directly influence the innovation cycle using the tools of M&E and working with value-driven builders and Sustainability Victoria to change how home buyers conceptualise and value sustainability in their homes.

Strategy and planning with the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation

Clear Horizon were invited by the [Aboriginal Carbon Foundation](#) to help clarify their strategy and 2019-2024 business plan.

The vision of the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation is to catalyse life-changing, community prosperity through carbon farming - building wealth for Traditional Owners with social, cultural, environmental and economic core-benefits through the ethical trade of carbon credits with Corporate Australia, government agencies and international bodies.

Clear Horizon supported the Foundation to clarify their goals for the future and the current and potential strategies to get there. The clarification has since informed their budgeting and annual workplans and better positioned the Foundation to tell the story of its achievements.

It was an absolute privilege to be invited to support the Foundation and learn more about the great work it is doing, but most of all to work with excellent individuals whose life's work is about making an enduring difference to the life of Aboriginal Australians.