

THE TRANSFORMER

FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome to the twelfth edition of *The Transformer* - an update from the Smart Transformation Project.

Smart Transformation works to future-proof the communities of Dysart and Moranbah and make them sustainable, as we face the rapid technological changes being brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (or 4IR for short).

Smart Transformation operates independently, with support from BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), and is driven by the two towns' Smart Transformation Advisory Councils (STACs) and Youth Advisory Council (YAC). Council members direct resources and effort into projects important to local residents.

YAC first meeting for 2023



YAC members were asked to prioritise issues for consideration within the Smart Transformation Project at their first meeting of 2023. See full story inside.

Housing action plan drafted

Key housing industry stakeholders are now working on possible solutions to housing availability and affordability through the Smart Transformation Housing Project.

Smart Transformation has developed a housing action plan for Dysart and Moranbah, designed to address critical issues in the local market.

The draft plan is currently being reviewed by Isaac Regional Council, before being presented to key housing industry stakeholders who participated in a number of workshops late last year to investigate the problems and issues in the accommodation sector.

These stakeholders included representatives from the resource sector, local, state and federal Governments, banking, developers and community leaders who attended working groups on seven key topics:

1. Future Demand
2. Land Use and Planning
3. Land Development
4. Housing Construction
5. Finance
6. Ownership
7. Liveability

Smart Transformation engaged experts AEC to lead the work, with funding from BMA, and AEC Senior Economist Jonathan Pavetto said the actions aimed to address local issues which were unique to the Isaac housing market.

"The working groups considered feedback received from the Smart Transformation Housing Summit, and from there the actions flowed," Jonathan said.

"Everything is in draft right now – because the forward plan needs to be one that we can all agree on, and progress together."

New Alliance to boost childcare

The Childcare Leadership Alliance (CLA) has presented its Strategic Plan to the Smart Transformation Advisory Committees in Dysart and Moranbah, as part of a plan of community engagement to drive support for the sector.

The CLA, funded by BMA, will be officially launched in April, and Moranbah STAC member Melissa Westcott is a key driver to the project which aims to make it easier for local parents to access childcare services.

“When it comes to the economic stability of Moranbah and Dysart, availability of childcare is a key constraint on our employers, our small businesses, our big businesses and our industry, due to the impact it has on our workforce,” Ms Westcott said.

“We need the employees. We need the attraction and retention of staff at our local stores and local companies – but first we need the childcare for their families, so it all links together.

“One can’t be done without the other. We can’t fix attraction and retention across the communities without first focusing on the childcare.”

You can show your support by signing up for updates via the Childcare Leadership Alliance website: www.childcareleadershipalliance.com.au or via social media.

“*One can’t be done without the other. We can’t fix attraction and retention across the communities without first focusing on the childcare.*”

MELISSA WESTCOTT - MORANBAH STAC MEMBER



Smart Transformation prioritised Childcare which led to the establishment of the Childcare Leadership Alliance and the appointment of Mel Comerford. Mel presented the Alliance’s strategic plan to the Smart Transformation Advisory Councils’ February meetings.

A closer look at Innovative Futures

Smart Transformation is moving forward on its Innovative Futures action plan, with a draft report circulating about the exciting options available to help Moranbah and Dysart transition to a profitable future as technology progresses.

The options ahead of us are incredibly exciting and the Innovative Futures Steering Committee is set to meet again shortly for a new series of future-focused conversations.

The action plan focuses on three streams of work: Industry Excellence, Leadership and Community, and Strong Foundations.

Key findings include the importance of encouraging ‘place-based leadership’ and the development of a training pipeline to support lifelong learning and new skills attainment.

STAC Moranbah Project Lead Brianna Baggow is excited about the project’s progress.

“I’m very outcome driven! It’s great to be part of the conversations, and the opportunities here are immense – this is the place to live!”

2023 YAC defines its priorities

Improving digital connectivity is the number one priority for the 2023 Youth Advisory Council (YAC), after members were polled at the YAC's first meeting of the year in Dysart.

The Dysart Civic Centre played host to the 2023 YAC which includes students from Years 9 through 12 at both Moranbah and Dysart State High Schools.

BMA Saraji General Manager Glenn Kirkpatrick, also a member of the Dysart STAC, welcomed the opportunity to speak to the students.

"It is great to be a part of this initiative that offers meaningful engagement opportunities for the next generation of talent in the region," Glenn said.

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GLENN KIRKPATRICK - BMA SARAJI GENERAL MANAGER

"Future jobs, Smart Transformation and being part of regional development projects that support exciting technological advancement in the Bowen Basin were key themes of conversation."

The YAC provides a youth voice into Smart Transformation and its projects, with the 2023 YAC prioritising the following top five issues to be addressed:

1. Digital Connectivity
2. 4IR Skills and Training
3. Childcare Services
4. Housing Availability
5. Industrial Land Development

Dysart High YAC Co-ordinator Patrice Brown said the students really enjoyed their first meeting.

"I think some were a little surprised at how active the YAC meeting is – and how much they got out of it on the day," Patrice said.

"They're all looking forward to the next meeting!"



BMA Saraji GM Glenn Kirkpatrick takes a selfie with the 2023 Youth Advisory Council.

Get on board!

A new community bus service is helping take the pressure off residents who need to travel between Dysart and Moranbah.

Smart Transformation has enabled the project with the support of BMA, and the six-month trial has begun.

Dysart Community Development Officer and Dysart STAC member Richelle Toshack said the service was really needed.

“During my 20 years in this community, there have been very few options to affordably commute to and from Dysart, so the project has been a huge achievement for the STAC, made possible with the support of BMA,” Ms Toshack said.

“Accessibility to specialist services remains a challenge in our rural areas and the additional expense of fuel further impacts local residents, causing particular disadvantage to those who are more vulnerable.

The bus service currently operates once a week on Wednesdays, departing the Dysart Lions Park at 7.30am and arriving at the Townsquare Bus Stop in Moranbah at approximately 8.30am.

It then departs the Townsquare Bus Stop in Moranbah at 4.30pm on Wednesdays, arriving back at Lions Park in Dysart around 5.30pm.

Ms Toshack said the service would remain free for the six-month trial; and all passengers need to do is show up.

“I’ve received really positive feedback about the new service and I believe its use will continue to grow as news spreads,” she said.



All aboard for the weekly Dysart-Moranbah bus service, currently being trialled by Smart Transformation.

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RICHELLE TOSHACK - DYSART STAC MEMBER



Get involved in Smart Transformation

The Smart Transformation Project is a community initiative to shape our own future for ourselves. If you would like more information, please drop us a line at smartransformation@outlook.com or check us out at www.smartransformation.com.au

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