



## SMART TRANSFORMATION

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#### Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Meeting – Dysart

28 August 2023 – Meeting 19

#### **Attendees**

Jasmine Cadd  
Chris Cowan  
Liz Fox  
Brianna Jahnke  
Glenn Kirkpatrick  
Sandy Moffat  
Seamus Taylor  
Richelle Toshack

#### **Apologies**

Sgt Tim Fahey  
Cherryl Perry  
Jacqueline Smith

#### **Guests**

Allan Morton, EnviroMETS (via Zoom)

#### **Secretariat**

Mitchell Innes (Facilitator)  
Melanie Stott

### MEETING NOTES

- Meeting commenced at 6.08pm with apologies advised.

### MINUTES

- Minutes from Meeting 17 were moved by Chris Cowan, seconded by Glenn Kirkpatrick and approved by all.
- Minutes from Meeting 18 were moved by Chris Cowan, seconded by Jasmine Cadd and approved by all.

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### COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT / ACTION LIST

- Database has reached 269 subscribers, its highest number since inception.
- June's local media campaign focused on the training videos to upskill community organisations, while July featured a general Housing Project update. August featured the Housing Roundtable update and September will feature the YAC's visit to Brisbane.
- Smart Transformation has begun posting Social Tiles on local community Facebook pages each Friday. Early figures from website analytics show a slight increase in traffic to the website as a result of this social media campaign.
- Engagement highlights included Smart Transformation's participation in a number of Regional Economic Futures Fund meetings as well as the MIW Regional Community Forum, the GWC Housing Summit and our own Housing Roundtable.
- The annual YAC Tour was a great success, described as a "really great experience for the students" and the teacher in attendance noted that many attendees were talking about changing subjects for next year to include more technology-based subjects. The results of the students' survey was also discussed, and SM and RT suggested the YAC survey be extended to all Dysart High School student to possibly create data for Council and 'virtual universities' etc about what other skills training options could be made available (*see Actions*). "It's unique that kids who grow up here want to stay here and they wish they could study here."
- Actions from previous minutes have all been acted on, with further work underway.

### ROADMAP PROJECT UPDATES

- Digital Connectivity – STAC members discussed whether to plan communications like a letterbox drop or a launch event. MI to investigate the option of a letterbox drop (*see Actions*).
- 4IR Skills & Training Careers Navigator – discussed and all is continuing to progress well.
- Childcare – SM said that most of the available funding will go towards attraction and retention of staff. The relationship between the CLA and Lady Gowrie is progressing well and conversations are underway with Education Queensland and the State Government.
- Community Skills & training – GW3 has 10 people registered for the Social Media Training session on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Attraction/Retention – the Dysart and Moranbah videos are enjoying another run of publicity.

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- Volunteer Project – will be discussed at the Moranbah STAC meeting tomorrow with a potential sub-committee to emerge to work on this as a new project. MI to update Dysart STAC (*see Actions*).

## HOUSING UPDATE

- The Smart Transformation Housing Report makes 17 recommendations and at the recent Roundtable, organisations were allocated accountabilities and support for such.
- Smart Transformation also provided those recommendations to Greater Whitsunday Communities for their summit, which had 180 attendees. However, they are studying the problem while they are engaging, and one of our strengths is our strong focus on solutions.
- GWC is focusing on the establishment of a Regional Housing Alliance and a Regional Housing Trust. The level of detail about what that looks like is still being worked out. While there's broad agreement, this approach hasn't yet been endorsed. GWC is looking at how and what can be implemented.
- There is no decision yet about the structure of the Alliance, but Smart Transformation is "way ahead" with our work on housing so far.
- General consensus is we should not sit back.
- A letter to Isaac Regional Council was signed by STAC members to set up a housing workshop. MI to send letter and set up potential meeting (*see Actions*).

## ECONOMIC REHABILITATION – Allan Morton, EnviroMETS

Allan Morton presented to the meeting via Zoom:

- Allan is charged with changing the conversations about mine rehabilitation options, including increased community input into mine rehabilitation.
- Looking to the future, EnviroMETS is looking at ways to transform mine sites into economic opportunities such as shopping centres, adventure parks or even hotels, eg Shanghai in China where the bottom two floors of a hotel are underwater in a former mine pit.
- There are many challenges ahead, including how create a clear pathway for repurposing a mine site, followed by improving project 'investability' and reducing inherited liability.
- Mine rehabilitation needs to consider a new exit pathway beyond mining – from Scars of the Past to Return to Nature or Pasture to Economic Transformation into something of value.

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- New High Value Uses for Post Mining Land include: tourist attractions, adventure parks, food production facilities, go kart tracks with zip lines, unique sculptures of overburden heaps, and even seaweed farms in mine pits to feed cattle. “Visionary leadership is required.”
- Three Lighthouse projects include:
  - 1 - Navigating the regulatory framework impacting the economic transformation of mine-affected land.
  - 2 - Develop a reliable, repeatable method of assessing ‘best net value of various next purpose options’.
  - 3 - Establish several pilot/test site facilities in Qld where stakeholders can find and prove new innovative economic purposes (this requires community support).
- What we need to do:
  - 1 - Change the language to ‘Economic Transformation’, not ‘closure’ or ‘transition’. This is about building a multi-generational future.
  - 2 - Be active in finding new uses for mined land. Every ‘back of the ute’ idea needs collecting.
  - 3 - Work collaboratively to build trust. This includes cooperations between regional communities, mining industry operators and government agencies.
- STAC members asked if they saw value in these sorts of ideas as a project and the general consensus was yes.

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH – OUTBACK FUTURES

- Smart Transformation received no responses to its RFP.
- Another option to pursue would be Outback Futures who have historically worked in rural communities, not mining towns. The OF team will come into town and do an assessment and then return at a later date. They do have psychologists and mental health staff on board but the exact details of how the program would work for Dysart aren’t yet known.
- STAC members confirmed they were keen to progress this. MI to start the ball rolling with OF (*see Actions*).

## INNOVATIVE FUTURES – REFF STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Smart Transformation was invited to be on a new committee, the Regional Economic Futures Fund (REFF), which puts \$200 million into a bucket and each region gets \$40 million, with \$40 million left over for extra ideas.
- They came up with four priority areas - manufacturing, biofuels, agribusiness and aquaculture. Most recent meeting included long discussions about funding options and debate over further likely progress from here. Some discussions on economic mine

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rehabilitation as well, which correlate with Smart Transformation's other discussions with Allan Morton from EnviroMETS at the moment.

- Smart Transformation's Innovative Futures report has been given to the REFF. MI said it's a huge forum for ST to be in and the future is bright.
- Smart Transformation's response includes three points:
  - Need to ensure recognition for met coal future.
  - Need to appreciate the challenges in plan associated with housing and worker shortages.
  - Enable repurposing of existing infrastructure for future industry opportunities.
- MI to continue making progress with Smart Transformation's inputs to the REFF, which the STAC agrees is a good idea (*see Actions*).

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- SM raised the subject of 'community fatigue' and said there is some interesting work in that area being done by a group called Collaboration for Impact, working on the Western Downs. MI to investigate (*see Actions*).

### NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 9th October, 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.59pm.

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