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Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Meeting – Moranbah

29 August 2023 – Meeting 19

Attendees

Brianna Baggow
Jasmine Cadd
Ash Dowd
Carolyn Fritz (via Zoom)
Michelle Pole
Amanda Raymond
Melissa Westcott

Apologies

Vaughn Abrahms
Anthony Edwards

Guests

Allan Morton, EnviroMETS (via Zoom)

Secretariat

Mitchell Innes (Facilitator)
Melanie Stott

MEETING NOTES

- Meeting commenced at 12.08pm with apologies advised.

MINUTES

- Minutes from Meeting 17 were moved by Jasmine Cadd, seconded by Melissa Westcott and approved by all.
- Minutes from Meeting 18 were moved by Briana Baggow, seconded by Jasmine Cadd and approved by all.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT / ACTION LIST

- Database has reached 269 subscribers, its highest number since inception.

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- 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 MW asked how the YAC trip actually filters down to other students at Moranbah High School. MI said the students who attend the trip are asked to talk to their friends. One option could be for all students to fill out the YAC survey, not just the YAC kids. MI to investigate (*see Actions*).
- Actions from previous minutes have all been acted on, with further work underway.

ROADMAP PROJECT UPDATES

- Digital Connectivity –MI to contact GW3 for an update on Moranbah tower construction (*see Actions*). STAC members also discussed whether to plan a launch event. AD said it's worth spreading the news in multiple ways.
- Childcare – initial conversations with Anglo are underway and JC said they see the CLA as a positive development for what the community needs, as well as something that will benefit all employers.
- Youth Mental Health project for Dysart: MI gave an update regarding the lack of expressions of interest providing the planned service. “

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

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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.
- 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.
- Discussion: ST said these ideas and plans are brilliant but here there will be restrictions due to transport and numbers of people required.

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.

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- 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*).

VOLUNTEERING PROJECT

- Volunteer project campaign ideas have been printed for review and were received positively by the meeting.
- Proposal to establish a Volunteering Smart Transformation sub-committee and put together a media campaign for 2024 as the 2024 Year of the Volunteer with recognition and even some awards.
- MW suggested use of actual Moranbah and Dysart images in the campaign imagery from Tropical Exposure. MW said TE just did a photo shoot at the Moranbah footy club and MP said they’ve just done one at the high school as well (*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 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*).

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GENERAL BUSINESS

- General brief discussion of RCoE funding, Mines Rescue location etc. JC said Steve Boxall should come and give the STACs an update on the RCoE and MI agreed (see *Actions*).

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday 10th October, 12pm.

Meeting closed at 2.02pm.

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