



SMART TRANSFORMATION

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Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Meeting – Dysart

27 November 2023 – Meeting 21!

Attendees

Jasmine Cadd
Chris Cowan
Liz Fox
Sandy Moffat
Cherryl Perry
Jacqueline Smith

Secretariat

Mitchell Innes (Facilitator)
Melanie Stott

Apologies

Sgt Tim Fahey
Brianna Jahnke
Glenn Kirkpatrick
Seamus Taylor

Guests

Brent Sweeney, Outback Futures via Zoom
Steve Boxall, CEO RCoE via Zoom
Carley McDonnell, Resident

MEETING NOTES

- Meeting commenced at 6.10pm with apologies advised.

MINUTES

- Minutes from Meeting 20 were moved by Chris Cowan, seconded by Sandy Moffat and approved by all.

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AROUND THE GROUNDS – OPEN DISCUSSION

- Nothing noted.

ACTION LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Database has reached 283 subscribers, its highest number since inception but will go higher after new YAC parents signed up.
- Engagement highlights included an enviroMETS workshop, Black Coffee launch with the Local Jobs Taskforce, engagement with IRC over Housing, discussions with Department of Resources re Glenden and learning opportunities, and the Outback Futures community forum in Dysart.
- October's local media campaign focused on Innovative Futures, while November featured the YAC nominations process. Early 2024 local media will feature the 21st STAC meetings, after the publications take their holiday breaks.
- Smart Transformation's Social Tiles that are being posted on local community Facebook pages are continuing to result in a jump in website traffic.
- Actions from previous minutes have all been acted on, with further work underway. MI noted the STAC members did an especially great job in spreading the word and getting community members to attend the Outback Futures forum earlier in November.

ROADMAP PROJECT UPDATES

- YAC Plus feedback – MI has talked to both schools about increasing the opportunities for all students and will continue to work with the schools to try and find ways to expand the knowledge and benefits gained. The YAC alumni survey has also gone out to more than 50 students and eight replies have been received so far. Early data shows they did value the opportunity and it increased their knowledge about jobs for the future; full results will be presented at the February meeting (*See Actions*).
- 4IR Skills & Training Careers Navigator – JC said Bowen Basin Bright Minds review is still underway and there will be further engagement with the STACs in relation to that.
- Digital Connectivity – it is now completely live, in both towns! The only outstanding work is the black spot funding for the highways, but in terms of the new infrastructure in both towns, construction is complete and the towers are in operation. MI is working on a flyer for home delivery in Dysart detailing the projects and achievements (*See Actions*).

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- Volunteering project – underway in Moranbah and can be expanded to Dysart if required.
- Housing – MI is meeting with IRC at the moment and there are ongoing negotiations and discussions underway (*See Actions*).
- Innovation Project – agenda item.
- Outback Futures – agenda item.

OUTBACK FUTURES SCOPING VISIT UPDATE – Brent Sweeney, Outback Futures

Brent Sweeney presented to the meeting via Zoom:

- Brent outlined the proposed ‘scoping trip’ that took place in Dysart a week ago.
- “In some ways there is nothing unique about the situation in Dysart and there are similar issues in many other regional towns.”
- Five domains of the OF windmill – strong sense that community activity is contributing to the health and wellbeing of Dysart but leaders are not making an investment in their own mental health. The lack of allied health providers on offer was noted.
- It was also noted that there was a lack of imagination and energy for ‘new thinking’ among community groups, and Brent said there is a real opportunity for some new thinking to be introduced in Dysart.
- Range of resource gaps identified – housing, low volunteers, staffing, allied health support, transport, venues, shopping centre.
- People often have a five-year plan to be in Dysart; rather than lamenting people leaving, maybe it’s important to get people to really thrive and make the most of their time in Dysart, rather than putting a whole lot of energy into ‘how do we get them to stay?’ “How do we capture the attention and energy of people to help make the most of the town while they’re there?”
- General discussion by STAC members was that the findings are consistent with what they think, and there are positive opportunities ahead. CC and JS said the results are correct according to their interviews and feedback.
- MI said OF will now work on a report by mid to late January for discussion at the February meeting (*See Actions*).

RCoE PHASE THREE – Steve Boxall, CEO Resources Centre of Excellence

Steve Boxall presented to the meeting via Zoom:

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- Steve gave an update on the status of the planned future stages of the Isaac Resources Centre of Excellence precinct.
- He presented a video showing highlights of the RCoE's first three years of operation: there have been over 18,000 visitors and 500 companies to the RCoE facility and in its second and third years, it made a small and then healthy surplus on operating costs.
- Signature Innovating Projects include the Resource Circularity Project with BMA, the Circular Economy Innovation Grants and the Decarbonisation Accelerated project.
- Over \$13M has been contributed to the local economy as a result of the RCoE.
- The purpose is to "...connect the brightest minds in industry, education and research to shape our resource sectors."
- RCoE does not align with any one level of government or political party or company.
- RCoE is also closely aligned with enviroMETS and believes there is great potential, depending on legislation changes.
- Steve agreed with the STAC members that there is a lot of "visionary" work happening.
- "There is trust and excitement from the State Government that they're actually supporting an initiative that is well thought out. It's got a passionate range of people – everyone from community, industry and local government involved. I think we've certainly got their trust and support to deliver exactly what we want to, for these communities."

INNOVATIVE FUTURES – REFF AND enviroMETS

- MI said a huge amount of work is required to get this idea of economic post-mining land use going, for example sorting out the Environmental Protection Act and various legislative changes.
- MI asked STAC members whether they agree with the idea of talking to people outside the community about the end of a mine's life.
- LF said "it depends, as it's a moot point for the Dysart community" because the mine has a long life ahead of it.
- SM said it would be worth it just to have the conversations, in order to benefit people in 100 years' time.
- SM said there's a lot of backroom work that needs to happen before the conversations, but that it is important to start these conversations.
- General discussion that the legislation is different in each state.
- LF said until the legislation changes, you can't make any headway, plans or changes.
- REFF update: there is relatively low representation in Isaac and Mackay but there are plenty of proposals. Isaac proposals are only 4% of the total number of proposals.

YEAR IN REVIEW

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- General discussion of Year in Review slide showing that in 2023: the Digital Connectivity project towers were completed, the Careers Navigator role was put in place and a strategy was developed, the scoping visit by Outback Futures was conducted, the Childcare project progressed with new staff identified and funding options being pursued, the Housing project progressed with a forward plan and headway with IRC, IRC engagement was conducted for Services Advocacy, the Innovative Futures project has progressed with enviroMETS and the REFF, and the new Volunteering project is ready to kick off in 2024.

ACTIONS – DYSART

- MI to present the findings of the YAC alumni survey at the February meeting.
- MI to continue working on a Smart Transformation flyer for home delivery detailing the projects and achievements.
- MI to continue dialogue with IRC regarding Housing, with ongoing negotiations and discussions underway.
- MI to receive Outback Futures' 'scoping report' by late January for discussion at the February meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 12 February 2024, 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.49pm.

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