



SMART TRANSFORMATION

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Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Meeting – Dysart

17 June 2024 – Meeting 24

Attendees

Jasmine Cadd
Chris Cowan
Liz Fox
Brianna Jahnke
Carley McDonnell
Jacqueline Smith
Seamus Taylor
Richelle Toshack

Apologies

Sgt Tim Fahey
Sandy Moffat
Dane Nielsen

Guests

Mel Comerford, Ch'care Leadership Alliance

Secretariat

Mitchell Innes (Facilitator)
Melanie Stott

MEETING NOTES

- Meeting commenced at 6.08pm with apologies advised.

MINUTES

- Minutes from Meeting 23 were moved by Chris Cowan, seconded by Seamus Taylor and approved by all.

ACTION LIST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Database has had a slight increase to 318 subscribers after completion of the audit, while the website numbers are up by 23% for the past two months. Distribution of the April

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Transformer resulted in a big spike, with other spikes relating to social media posts about the Volunteering Project.

- Engagement highlights included a Greater Whitsunday Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting and an IRC teleconference in April, meetings with NQPHN, QRC, the Regional Housing Alliance, the Local Jobs Program Taskforce and MHHS in May, as well as IRC and Education Queensland meetings in June.
- June's local media featured the Childcare Project, while the Volunteering Project will feature in July.
- Actions from previous minutes:
 - Efforts to advocate for improved attraction and retention of teachers at Dysart High School are underway and ongoing.

ROADMAP PROJECT UPDATES

- Digital Connectivity – while the new infrastructure is switched on and a stakeholder celebration held, STAC members keen to remain involved, lobbying for NBN connection while also continuing to monitor GW3's regional efforts. (*see Actions*).
- Volunteering Project – TV campaign is still running, and Phase Two of the project is underway with a second round of videos shot with five new clubs in May, to be rolled out later this month.
- 4IR Skills & Training – the Careers Navigator position is finishing up this month; the YAC also toured Goonyella Riverside Mine, with a tour of Sondella planned for July.
- Childcare – agenda item.
- Outback Futures – agenda item.
- Innovation Project – MI said REFF funding projects expected to be revealed by the state government over the next five months in the lead-up to the election. Decarb workshop attended by MI in May also provided some options for consideration.
- Housing – agenda item.
- Community Services Advocacy – conversations are ongoing with Education Queensland about further community support to provide attraction and retention for teachers at Dysart High School. New staff are arriving; however three teachers are leaving at the end of this term (21 June). MI raised the possibility of trying a new form of community advocacy with Education Queensland “as a pilot, and seeing if it might work for other schools” (*see Actions*).

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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- MI said the Goonyella tour was a “really positive day” with a tour of Sondella planned for July. The recent YAC survey results included confirmation from YAC members that they each speak to up to 20 others about the information they learn from the YAC after each meeting (35% speak to 5-20 and 65% speak to 1-5); MI said this shows the word of the program is spread via face-to-face interactions. General discussion of university plans including options for a building in Clermont and a satellite campus/office in Moranbah, as well as further YAC survey results showing the large number of high school students who want to study at or close to home, not in Brisbane or Mackay.

CHILDCARE PROJECT UPDATE – Mel Comerford, Childcare Leadership Alliance

- Mel Comerford presented to the STAC members, thanking them for supporting the CLA for the past two years. The CLA began operations in July 2022, funded by BMA within the pilot regions of Moranbah and Dysart. The objective remains to ensure that quality childcare can occur in the regions. “The phone rings up to 40 times a week with people asking about childcare, and people won’t move here if they can’t get childcare,” Mel said.
- “It’s been an eye-opener for us to work across Moranbah and Dysart to see where the problems are. People with young children are the most predominant people in the workforce.”
- Project update: Over the past two years, the CLA has tested three local, domestic and international recruitment campaigns, and by far the most successful has been the international campaign. The problem has been sourcing accommodation for the new staff.
- “We’ve had support and success in Moranbah but there are different challenges in Dysart and we are looking at alternative solutions for them.” However, MC said that recently both childcare services in Dysart have had reasonable success with attracting educators.
- In Moranbah, 27 educators have been sourced at a cost of about \$900K, with childcare centres renting and furnishing a total of 21 houses and units for these staff members. “Simply Sunshine (childcare centre) has now hit an occupancy rate of 96%, and they are starting to see the revenue benefits of that.”
- In Dysart, Lady Gowrie will benefit from funding from Vitrinite to support them in their staff attraction endeavours. The forward plan at this stage is for the CLA to set up three houses in Dysart, using funding from Vitrinite.
- There are still vacancies for 29 more educators: 19 in Dysart and 10 in Moranbah.

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- MC emphasised the importance of now focussing on getting three Dysart properties ready and furnished for when new staff are found.
- MC said she could not have imagined the level of support they've received from the childcare providers, but that support needs to continue to get the remaining educators "across the line".
- In Dysart, Lady Gowrie has recently been able to open five days per week and is "on the upward trend."
- LF asked if the childcare centres here can offer before school, after school, holiday and vacation care "because that's what we really need." General conversation about Outside School Hours Care in Dysart. MC said Lady Gowrie had up to 15 spots available and were working on more, along with some from the state school. Discussion of the idea of "working on Lady Gowrie first, then look at need, based on community demographics, after that."
- MC said she'll talk to Lady Gowrie and see what the possible options could be and also talk to the CLA board about "going outside regulated service areas." (*see Actions*).
- As a general comment in relation to childcare and the CLA, CC said "it's come a long way, that's for sure."
- JS said she knows of Dysart people moving to Moranbah because childcare has become more available there.
- MC said we need to look at family day care in Dysart as well, but it was complicated because of property requirements.
- General discussion and a further commitment by MC to follow up with Karen from OSH Moranbah to possibly do an excursion to Dysart to look at how a service could be set up here (*see Actions*).

HOUSING PROJECT UPDATE

- Recap of IAHT meeting outcomes from December 2023: ST invited into IAHT Board, IAHT requested support to lobby mining companies for social housing funding and the progression of and Eol to develop a 'CLA-style' solution for housing. New Council has put these opportunities on hold for now.
- Following the local government elections in March, conversations were really positive in April, May and June with a review into the IAHT being 'scoped' and the new Mayor committing to respond within six weeks.
- GWC progress includes: a regional lobbying strategy including a housing grant for all new builds (not just first homebuyers), regional targets within all new housing funding rounds, social housing (a roadmap to achieve targets), and incentives for retirement living and aged care solutions.
- Meeting imminent with Tim Mander, Opposition Housing spokesman.

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- RT said people are still moving to Dysart thinking the rent is cheaper but it's not. "80% of new residents move to town and immediately ask for support."
- CMcD said farmers in the area are finding it hard to employ families because of issues with limited services and transport.

DYSART COMMUNITY WELLBEING PROJECT UPDATE

- Project update: Outback Futures made eight recommendations which remain in place, as discussed at the last meeting.
- Forward plan: 23-25 July will be Outback Futures' first trip to Dysart as part of the new pilot program; they have already distributed information about how to book an appointment, but it will also be possible to make referrals.
- MI told the STAC if they know of someone who needs support, to provide the booking link or another option (*see Actions*).
- JS told the meeting of one person who has been 'referred' through conversations "in a positive way."
- CMcD said OF should also put some effort into showing people the positive things that are happening in town.
- Four major initiatives to work on: 1. reclaiming a positive community identity, 2. supporting school resilience, 3. empowering local champions, 4. equipping parents through transition.
- Discussions on Point 1: Reclaiming a Positive Community Identity: MC noted it was an issue for attraction and retention. JS said there is a positive page in Longreach called 'Light Up Longreach' eg, "Let's cheer for this person, this week." MI asked about how to reclaim a positive community identity and the STAC agreed to "give it a red-hot go".
- Discussions on Point 2: Supporting School Resilience: JC said issues with youth mental health "were the genesis of this project" so it's an important point. General discussion of screening processes for young children through schools.
- Discussions on Point 3: Empowering Local Champions.
- Discussions on Point 4: Equipping Parents Through Transition: general discussion that this was also a challenging area for residents in Dysart.
- JC asked, how OF can be facilitated and supported? "How can we maximise the access to them while they're here?" RT said she has told OF the due dates for the Dysart Diary, so they can put an article in there (and Smart Transformation has provided an article on OF for the July edition as well).

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BMA REVIEW – SMART TRANSFORMATION

- JC told the meeting there is funding for Smart Transformation through to June 2025.
- “From BMA’s perspective, it’s a fantastic program and one we really, really value.”
- An external reviewer will be conducting the review in the next few months, and will be speaking to STAC members and stakeholders.
- MI said any gaps identified in the review can be considered for addition to the STAC review for 2025.

ACTIONS – DYSART

- MI to progress further conversations with Telstra and GW3 relating to the planned NBN works, as well as particular 3G and ‘black spot’ issues in and around Dysart, as specified by CMcD in particular.
- MI to progress the idea of a community advocacy ‘pilot’ with Education Queensland, in order to improve and facilitate the community’s role in attracting and retaining teachers to Dysart High School.
- MI to follow up with Mel Comerford and monitor/facilitate conversations with Lady Gowrie in Dysart to determine whether some sort of community feedback process can better inform community members about what sorts of childcare spots are available, and if there’s anything else the community can do to help the Lady Gowrie centre operate at improved capacity and/or provide before school, after school and holiday care. As part of this, MC is to talk to the CLA board about “going outside regulated service areas.”
- MI to confirm the Outback Futures ‘booking link’ with STAC members who want to refer people to the services, or to be able to refer people through the correct channels if asked.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday 12 August 2024, 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.49pm.

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