

THE TRANSFORMER

FEBRUARY 2025

Welcome to the 24th edition of The Transformer - an update from the Smart Transformation Project.

Smart Transformation works to future-proof the communities of Dysart and Moranbah and build their sustainability, as we face the rapid technological changes being brought about by the Fifth Industrial Revolution (5IR).

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

Dysart and Moranbah – have your say!

Smart Transformation's Advisory Councils (STACs) are developing their forward work plan and are encouraging residents of Dysart and Moranbah to provide their input to update Smart Transformation's Community Roadmap.

Aiming to make the two towns sustainable has been at the forefront of Smart Transformation's work to date – a purpose which will continue according to Moranbah STAC member Ash Dowd.

“The Community Roadmap was developed through extensive consultation with locals – families, businesses and community members,” Ash said.

“It has been a fantastic guide for our work, but now we need to check and update it to make sure we are on the right path.

“And that means going back to the people that helped develop it, and helped guide it, to see how the landscape has changed since we began Smart Transformation and what changes we need to make for our future to be a success. “

Dysart STAC member Chris Cowan said a community needs assessment would be conducted by Smart Transformation and invited everyone in Dysart and Moranbah to have their say.

“Smart Transformation has always been ‘by the community, for the community’ so we really need the community to help us identify what needs to be done to future proof our towns,” Chris said.

“We are investigating issues from housing and services, through to industry impacts and population.”

Residents of Dysart and Moranbah can access the survey by scanning the QR Code below.



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Keeping you up to date today, for our tomorrow.

Future of work focus for YAC

Members of Smart Transformation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) have discussed coming employment opportunities and begun planning pathways to their futures at their first meeting for the year.

Eighteen students make up YAC2025, representing both Dysart and Moranbah State High Schools, after having successfully nominated to be part of the cohort which provides a youth voice to Smart Transformation's plans and priorities.

BMA Goonyella Riverside Mine General Manager Vaughn Abrams spoke to the students about future resource sector employment, and the need to develop their skills of teamwork and collaboration

while also setting themselves apart through involvement in initiatives like the YAC.

"I would like to congratulate each of you for being appointed to this group – what a fantastic opportunity and an exciting year ahead for you all," Vaughn said.

During the meeting, members became "futurists-in-training", using tools to consider their options and pathways - a highlight for Moranbah State High student Henry Pilcher who plans to become a mechanical engineer.

"It actually made me sit down and think what I have to achieve to get to where I want to be," Henry said.

The YAC will meet again in May.

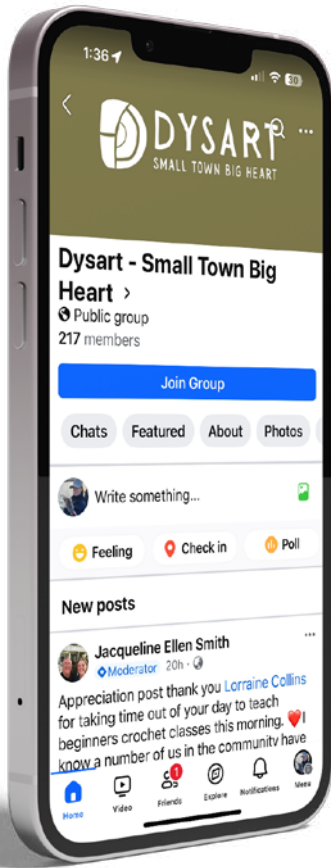


Students from Dysart and Moranbah State High Schools discussed future plans for themselves and their communities at the first meeting of the Youth Advisory Council 2025.

“What a fantastic opportunity and an exciting year ahead for you all.”

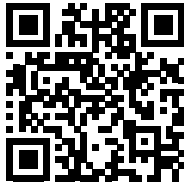


BMA's Vaughn Abrams discussed technological change in the resource sector with the Youth Advisory Council members.



The new Small Town Big Heart campaign aims to bring the Dysart community closer together.

Scan the QR Code to JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP.



Small Town, Big Heart campaign for Dysart

Celebrating all things Dysart is the focus of a new campaign designed to bring the community closer together as well as welcome new residents.

“Dysart – Small Town, Big Heart” is part of Smart Transformation’s Dysart Community Wellbeing Project being delivered by Outback Futures with funding from BMA.

Outback Futures’ Brent Sweeney has led the development and design of the campaign by a team which included Dysart Golf Club’s Rheenie Rowe.



Let’s make new people feel welcomed, safe and excited about what Dysart can do for their family,” Rheenie said.

There are some key values to the campaign born out of community consultation – like making people feel valued, helping them to contribute in building the community and ensuring they feel at home.

A complete kit of communications tools is available on the campaign’s Facebook page to help local businesses, clubs and organisations promote their events and activities.

But as Brent said “Small Town, Big Heart” is about more than just a logo.

“It’s about helping people in Dysart find a meaningful connection with others, whether they’ve lived here for a week or a decade,” Brent said.

Dysart residents are encouraged to join the Facebook group and help promote the true heart of Dysart.



Community members have spent hours developing the Small Town, Big Heart campaign with the team from Outback Futures.

STAC Profile – Michelle Pole

The last five years have seen a real turnaround at Moranbah State High School – teacher recruitment is easier, staff turnover has dropped and student outcomes have improved with significant increases in apprenticeships and traineeships for those graduating.

Michelle Pole
member of the
Dysart STAC.



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 smarttransformation@outlook.com or check us out at www.smarttransformation.com.au

“As a school and as a community, we have a responsibility to give our children every opportunity in the future of work.”

The changes began with the arrival of principal Michelle Pole, who brought thirty-five years education experience to the school and set about driving a change in culture by setting higher expectations, embodying the spirit of leadership and excellence.

“Valuing our staff has been at the heart of our efforts to improve educational outcomes, and ensuring each and every member of the team knows how critical they are to our students and our community,” Michelle said.

“This has brought about a change in recruitment – teachers now want to come here. Turnover has dropped as well and this gives us the ability to move forward rather than having to rebuild every year.

“And the community has responded, seeing what we are doing, and have been increasingly supportive.”

Michelle is an active member of the Moranbah Smart Transformation Advisory Council, leading in the project area of Youth 5IR Skills and Training.

“As a school and as a community, we have a responsibility to give our children every opportunity in the future of work,” she said.

“At Moranbah High and across our region, we are working on educational and learning initiatives for the Fifth Industrial Revolution.”

Michelle is also an ambassador for Teach Queensland, working to attract and inspire new talent to teaching, participating in teacher fairs and education panels, and talking to prospective educators.

The year ahead will be one of celebration and consolidation at Moranbah State High as Michelle and the team seek to further embed their culture of excellence into the school and the community – a community which she now proudly calls home.

“I should have come here years ago – I just love it,” she said with a smile.

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