

Smart Transformation Advisory Council (STAC) Meeting – Dysart

20 October, 2025 – Meeting 32

ATTENDEES

- Nathan Corbett (IBC President – Facilitator Online)
- Cindy Baker (IBC, Interim Facilitator – Online)
- Leann Priestely (IBC BDO)
- Ryan Ferricks (BHP Acting General Manager)
- Leah Scheepers (BMA, Manager for Community)
- Royce Bailey
- Sueanne Gregg
- Jackie Smith
- Donna Gilvarry
- Seamus Taylor
- Sandy Moffat
- Kath King
- Cameron Kratzing and Paul (Guests NPQHN)
- Brent Sweeney (Guest Outback Futures)
- Melissa Comerford and Bella Hickson (Guests CLA)

Apologies

- Dane Nielsen (BMA – on parental leave)
- Chris Cowan
- Richelle Toshack
- Carley McDonnell

MEETING NOTES

Meeting opened at 6:03pm with IBC President welcoming members and reiterating STAC's purpose, values, and guiding principles.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Isaac Business Chamber (IBC) & STAC Governance Update

- Two-year funding proposal approved by BMA, and contract signed.
- Special Projects Facilitator now engaged and commencing on 10 November 2025.

- Community Support Coordinator role advertisement closed with 12 applicants. (Requested volunteers to shortlist)
- Funding proposal for additional transitional support from GW3 also approved by BMA
- Interim Facilitator asked for volunteers to join a planning group for a celebration event in early 2026

2. BMA Update (Leah Scheepers and Ryan Ferricks)

- Update on recent BMA announcements
- Correspondence from Adam Lancey BMA Asset President discussed by members
- Petition from Resource Industry Network sent to members who were invited to sign

4. Around the Grounds – Any current arising priorities or relevant news

- Nothing new was tabled

5. Project Status Review - Top 3 Roadmap Priorities 2025

- Childcare - CLA outcomes achieved in Moranbah, with urgent Dysart needs still a priority (esp. after-school/vacation care)
- Community Wellbeing – Health Services shortages ongoing, priorities linked to roadmap and advocacy to address census undercount and resourcing gaps and monitor mental health support through Outback Futures
- Connectivity - Telstra service issues remain unresolved; agreed to seek update via GW3/advocacy

Interim Facilitator provided an update on the priorities and advised that documentation updates received from CLA, NQPHN and GW3 have been sent regarding these priorities and requested members make themselves familiar with the details and contact her if they have any questions.

6. Roadmap Priorities

Project Update 1: CLA Update

- Mel and Bella provided an overview of progress with Lady Gowrie re using their program to increase staffing to support more childcare places. Advised they have achieved success with one new staff members and another starting soon from migrant recruitment program. The CLA funding program supported by industry now released, has had a positive impact on them taking part in the program. A 60 place service is estimated as being required to meet demand.
- It was advised that an out of school hours care program has been explored but may prove difficult as there is insufficient consistent demand to make it financially viable, but they are exploring some options on this and will keep us updated. A 22 full-time placement is required which would take a casual booking of 66-88 children to make it viable. Financial support is likely to be needed to get gain progress.
- Members agreed to support sending an impact statement letter to Lady Gowrie to continue to drive advocacy for change.

Project Update 2: Community Wellbeing (Brent Sweeney Outback Futures)

- Ongoing support for allied health services is continuing with at least 30% of target already delivered. They have completed 5 in person clinics plus telehealth support.

- Now have 1100 facebook followers and town entry sign is up as part of the Little Town Big Heart campaign. They are keen for support to keep the campaign going.
- Leadership program has resulted in early stage formation of a group to support clubs and community organisations who require support on governance, finance, insurance and other collective needs to be delivered under an umbrella group on a fee for service basis that will include fundraising and sponsorship efforts.

Project Update 2: Community Wellbeing (Cameron and Paul NQPHN)

- NQPHN and consultant consulted with members of primary care health shortages.
- Sandy suggested a rotating locum across the region to support doctors.
- NQPHN advised they are putting together a submission to the Federal Government to seek additional support services for Isaac.
- There is an opportunity to consider other successful models such as Clermont for Doctors program, and other programs in Cardwell and Tully where they are run by an enterprise rather than private practice and use a combination of Nursing Practitioners and Telehealth services to provide consistent and follow-up care.

- Project Update 3: Connectivity (STAC feedback and GW3 Updates)

- Facilitator sent a template document requesting members to complete any identified areas and types of connectivity issues being experienced on the ground and how it is impacting both business and personal lives. This report is required to provide input to GW3 ongoing digital connectivity work in the region.
- Detailed reports completed in Nov 2024 from GW3 and Gravel Road were provided to members to compare with current issues.

7. Priority Projects: Actions arising and next steps

- NQPHN to provide updates on submission to STAC
- STAC members agreed to contribute support to letter to be sent by CLA to Lady Gowrie re childcare needs and impact statement.
- Outback Futures to advise if further support is required for the Leadership group being formed.
- Further updates from GW3 to be sent to members as they arise and report on local connectivity issues to be sent by STAC Facilitator to GW3 to support their work.

Meeting Closed:

- IBC President thanked those who attended
- Next Meeting: 8th December 2025 6 – 8pm Dysart Country Roads Motor Inn

ACTION ITEMS

- Volunteers required for shortlisting recruitment of Community Support Coordinator (Members)
- Volunteers required to form a working group to plan celebration event in early 2026. (Members)

- STAC Members to complete Connectivity Survey Report and return to Facilitator (Members)