



RSAB Meeting MINUTES

Held 1pm Wednesday 17th July 2018 at Barkly Motor Lodge Main Road Ballarat

Chair: Ian Rossiter (BREAZE)

Minutes: Ian Rossiter

Agenda Items	Discussion	Responsibility
<p>1. Welcome/ Apologies/ Introductions</p>	<p>Attendance: Ian Rossiter (BREAZE), Belinda Coates (BCC), Keith Jackson (GCWWRRG), Cherie Draper (BEN), Sarah Wills (DELWP), Scott White (Environmental Evolution) , Quenton Gay (BCC), Brendan Clarke (CHW), Tim Hudspith (DELWP), Melanie Robertson (C for B), Jeff Rootes (FOCC), Rob Law (CVGA), Andrew Lang (VBN)</p> <p>Apologies: Craig Hurley (Fed Uni), Peter Gell (Fed Uni), Ross Irving (SV), Janene Trickey (DELWP) Hazen Cleary (PLEA Network).</p> <p>Introductions: Sarah Wills from DELWP attended due to Janene Trickey's absence. Scott White attended as consultant to City of Ballarat producing Carbon Neutrality Strategy.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 15/5/18</p>	<p>The minutes were accepted from the previous meeting <u>noting that the presentation by Hazen Cleary from PLEA Network needed to be attached</u>, moved Keith Jackson, seconded Belinda Coates.</p>	
<p>3. Actions Arising from Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with City of Ballarat representatives, Hazen Cleary and Ian Rossiter to discuss letter regarding City of Ballarat biodiversity personnel and proposed Councillor induction re: Climate Change was cancelled due to Ian Rossiter attending a funeral. Belinda Coates has undertaken to get CEO's Exec Assistant to reschedule. • Waste to Energy Public Forum was successfully conducted on Tuesday 19 June with over 40 attendees and media coverage by ABC Regional Radio and Ballarat Courier. 	

<p>4. City of Ballarat Carbon Neutrality Strategy</p>	<p>Scott White (consultant from Environmental Evolution) has been developing the City's Carbon Neutrality Strategy. The content is provided in attached summary. The policy set by Council to undertake the strategy arose from a motion from Cr Coates to set an aspirational target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 requiring a strategy outlining proposed actions, targets and considerations.</p> <p>Quenton presented the findings of a baseline emissions analysis for Council's operations including landfill street lighting with projections to 2035 modelling population increases and corresponding service levels.</p> <p>The two key questions asked of RSAB members were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can Council best support the community in this space? • What other input does the RSAB want to have to this process? <p>The key actions identified to significantly reduce emissions within Council's operations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit street lighting with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures • Employ a second generator powered by landfill gas at Smythesdale landfill • Replace existing medium rigid axle truck fleet with electric vehicles at end of current lease period <p>Attached to these minutes is the Draft Strategy and Action Plan Index Page and a summary of comments and discussion points from the meeting compiled by Ian Rossiter and Scott White. RSAB Members are asked to add any other comments and send to Ian Rossiter for compilation.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RSAB members to add any other comments /suggestions relating to attachment 1 and email back to Ian Rossiter by 1st August. 2. Ian to consolidate comments and send to Scott by 6th August.
<p>5. Information Sharing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie and Sarah reported that GNET Grampians Renewable Energy roadmap funding announced by the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosia last week. It will identify electricity network constraints and opportunities within the context of proposed new large renewable energy (predominately wind) projects in western Victoria and capacity to export to other states. • Melanie reported that last week Lily D'Ambrosia announced \$50K funding for a feasibility study for a Federation University Renewable Energy Training Facility (Ballarat and Horsham Campuses). Fed Uni is establishing a partnership with a turbine blade repair organisation and hoping to offer training by early next year, for dogging and rigging, working at heights. • Rob Law(CVGA) reported membership now includes 13 Councils. CVGA is providing energy procurement practices for member councils and contracting arrangements with community energy groups. CVGA since taking over MASH (bulk solar purchasing scheme) has done 500kW of installations. CVGA has been shortlisted for approval to develop a virtual power station across region. Heat vulnerability mapping project is underway for member Councils. CVGA is managing a major road lighting upgrades project for Councils which have shared lighting cost arrangements with Vicroads. CVGA's Climate Change conference this week is being held at City of Darebin. 	

- Quenton Gay (BCC) briefed us on water projects investigating supply of Class A recycled water from North Ballarat Wastewater Treatment Plant to Wendouree West Recreation Reserve Reserve, storm water harvesting in 2 Ballarat West sites and Victoria Park.
- Andrew Lang reported that the collective of farmers who are advocating to harvest straw following cereal crop harvests as a source of energy (Straw Alliance) supported by Pyrenees Shire and City of Ballarat has access to 50,000 tonnes p.a. They are looking at German manufacturer's straw harvesting pelletising unit and have completed a feasibility study for the Skipton Hospital to install a biomass heater to replace LPG. Andrew reported Deakin New Energy Technology Forum in conjunction with Barwon Water have launched a project bringing wastes from a dairy, an abattoir, a timber milling plant and sewerage wastewater plant to produce heat and electricity. (Conceptual model developed)
- Ian reported that the Community Power Hub Ballarat (CPHB) has paid for a facilitator to conduct meetings with the Straw Alliance and Selkirk Bricks and Laminex Industries to determine if there is interest in straw as an energy source. CPHB will conduct a parallel feasibility study for the use of mechanised straw bale handling and shredding systems to provide fuel in the absence of an established pellet supply.
- Keith Jackson (GCWWRG) reported that Maddingly Brown Coal which operates the Maddingly Landfill has received a Victorian Government grant for a waste to energy facility, utilising 100,000 tonnes p.a. of woody biomass from Melbourne transfer stations. Keith reported that Australian Biofert at the JBT Industrial Estate at Bacchus Marsh are running a demonstration for their proposed process of torrefaction of chicken manure, dead chickens and fish waste (carp) for the proposed operating plant in Lethbridge producing high grade fertiliser.
- Ian reported that Minister Lily D'Ambrosio visited McCallum Linen Service last week to discuss the feasibility study completed by Community Power Hub Ballarat (run by BREAZE) which comprises a proposed 2MW biomass boiler unit and 99kW PV installation to replace dependency on natural gas and mains electricity as primary energy sources. BREAZE will complete the business case study to firm up competitive woodchip supply alternatives, identify all costs and cost savings and identify most suitable funding for \$1million capital costs. Ian reported that BREAZE will be managing Ballarat's Sustainable House Day event on Sunday 16 September with a number of homes open across the region including an earth covered home in Buninyong.
- BREAZE Board has discussed with Collen Fillipa (formerly Green Drinks Committee) the ongoing running of Green Drinks which is a world-wide regular event held in major cities for people interested in environmental sustainability. BREAZE is hoping to launch the new event "Ballarat Green Drinks by BREAZE" in September or October with the opportunity of repeating talks delivered at Ballarat Central Library during the day as an attraction for the evening events.

<p>6. "Is New Gold in The Too Hard Basket" Discussion paper</p>	<p>Cherie Draper from BEN prepared the attached draft discussion paper.</p> <p>Ballarat Environment Network formed 25 years ago following launch of the Ballarat Region Conservation Strategy as an umbrella environment network , however took on managing public land for biodiversity outcomes when the Victorian Government (Kennett era) wanted to sell public land then had to focus its resources and attention on hands on biodiversity protection. 25 years later the question of where BEN puts its energy and resources is driving a need for a new strategic direction. BEN's AGM this year proposes a forum in September on this issue and the discussion paper raises the issues associated with RSAB's previous Strategic Foresight Strategy and how RSAB entities, BEN and community might engage in setting a framework for coming years.</p>	<p>Action: Cherie Draper to distribute updated discussion paper to RSAB members seeking feedback.</p>
<p>6. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday September 18 from 1pm to 3pm With State Government Election candidates invited to hear RSAB's issues, aspirations and opportunities for the region and answer questions on their Environment, Energy, Transport and Water policies.</p>	<p>Action: Ian to invite candidates and determine suitable venue.</p>

Attachment 1

Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Action Plan Index

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Attachment 2

Key Issues and Discussion Points by RSAB Members in Relation to City of Ballarat Carbon Neutrality Strategy and Action Plan

- How can the City of Ballarat lead in setting aspirational targets for whole of the city?
- Aquatic Centre could be carbon neutral with biomass heating instead of natural gas
- BWEZ stage 2 could be provided with woody biomass combined power and heat plant.
- Where does recycled product fit within Council's purchasing policy?
- Stakeholder workshop within Council staff identified a policy need for an environmental purchasing policy. Rules required for assessing green component of contract (energy, recycling)
- Consider a revolving fund to use savings from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives to fund more initiatives.
- Planning schemes and building stock issue was raised– lobby for ESD principles. Python approach. Lisa Kendal (Strategic Planning Mgr) has started ESD principles guidelines for new development.
- Housing stock / consumer choice – opportunity for council is to hold a summit on how to achieve long term ESD objectives. Builders, RSAB, council, owners. Identify opportunities and issues. Developer forum – raise with the facility group??
- Rather than restricting our planning and thought to old technologies, how do we aim to make a strategy for 2035 more innovative to make Ballarat the first in new energy technologies? Not only focus on the here and now – look at something huge. Hydrogen city??, etc.
- Infrastructure Victoria's transport report has some great initiatives, could these be incorporated?
- Where is the education element to change community behaviours?
- How do we build the relationship with innovative corporations on our doorstep. E.g. Acciona Energy who have expertise in so many technologies including wind, water, solar, thermal, bioenergy to contribute to making Ballarat an example for the rest of Australia? Build relationships with experts in this space – responsibility of council. Innovation and organisational group – Cameron Gray.
- We are measuring CoBs emissions – can community emissions be shown? And reductions achieved?
- Best strategies are bold – lead the community along the low carbon path
- Drive one big project which showcases CoB as a leader
- Growing community support so that they become drivers to ensure CoB is kept on this path.
- Commit to what we know will reduce CO₂e, and commit to implementing what is not currently known.
- Link up with MAV to send CoB representatives to conferences to keep tabs with latest directions as many other places have been operating with zero / or greatly reduced emissions for years/decades
- Understanding what's possible, Proactively support / fund demonstration
- Community education component of the strategy
- Consumption – food waste. Include in document.
- Encourage speakers from experts – keep an eye on growing trends and not remain insular
- Consider how CoB can be a leader and not just be another carbon neutral Local Government Authority.