

# REB Action Group

## MINUTES

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 7:30pm Benalla Uniting Church

**1. Present:**

Sandy Campbell, Kevin Smith, Larissa Montgomery, John Lloyd, Adrian Howden, Howard Bartlett, Peter Maddock

**2. Apologies:** Cath Botta

**3. Discussion/Presentation about REB website**

Bev Lee presented the preliminary work done on an REB website and suggestions for the group's discussion. Assistance is needed with completing the content of the website, in particular the 'staying informed' section. The link to the site will be sent around – all members to review and provide feedback and input asap.

**ACTION: All members to review the preliminary website and provide feedback/input before the next meeting.**

**4. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

*Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 be accepted*

Moved: Adrian Howden

2<sup>nd</sup>: Kevin Smith

All in favour

**5. Business Arising**

5.1. Florent Thivillier has resigned from REB.

5.2. Registering REB name – Still waiting on BSGF ABN to be changed and will then be able to register. Peter Maddock continuing to follow up.

5.3. Presentation to Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May by John was well received by the Councillors, motion to continue to support REB was passed.

**6. Action Groups – report on action plan to implement key strategies**

**6.1 Buildings and Efficiency – report from Howard**

Howard reported that the first session was very successful with over 20 participants. Broke into smaller facilitated groups. Many indicated they would be attending the second session.

**6.2 Sustainable Builders / Tradies**

Catherine on 4 weeks leave but will continue planning with Cath for session in August.

**6.3 Solar and Community Energy – report from John**

Mondo have had approximately 40 expressions of interest and are working through assessments and contracts. Expressions of interest open until end of July.

John has been liaising with the NERPSA kindergarten group in regards to Bernard Briggs and Munro Avenue. Bernard Briggs doesn't have a good roof orientation but does operate 5 days per week. Munro Avenue has good roof orientation and operates 4 days per week. John will continue to follow up and get Chris Weir to assess potential.

Larissa met with Chris Ogden of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society in regards to the Poultry Pavilion. There are currently around 5 buildings on the electricity bill which is only around \$150 a month. Mens' Shed only use the building for 3-4 days per week and may be moving to a different location. Otherwise the A&P Society were very interested.

#### 6.4 Utility Scale and Storage – report from Adrian

Adrian is going to write a piece on fuel excise for Cathy McGowan to raise in parliament. Continuing to look into bio-digestion, pumped hydro etc.

#### 7. **Community Energy Retailer**

Kevin reported that he attended a meeting of the Community Energy Retailer on 14 May. New members attended. Lots of discussion on the name. Need to start working out how to get the retailer operational.

#### 8. **General Business**

##### **8.1 Low income assistance**

Larissa met with the Community Plan – Connected Community action group to discuss supporting low income households to reduce their energy bills. Concept idea was to pilot meeting with 5 households to discuss energy bills and simple energy efficiency measures that could be taken to reduce those bills.

Discussed the 'Pick My Project' grant application idea – incorporating support for low income households to reduce energy bills and using Waminda community house as a demonstration site (energy efficiency upgrades and solar install).

**8.2** Hume Renewable Energy Forum on 13 June at the Benalla Lakeside Centre. The forum aims to provide information to help local government and other organisations facilitate the uptake of renewable energy in our region, particularly in the light of recent community concerns about solar farm proposals. There is an opportunity to network over lunch and for attendees to learn about community energy projects and groups – John and Larissa will have some materials and be available to answer questions on the day.

**8.3** John was contacted by another new solar farm proposal near the Winton sub-station and was invited to meet with them on 13 June – before an open community session at the Winton Motor Raceway. As John is already busy on the 13<sup>th</sup> he will arrange a time to meet with them the following day. John will send around details.

#### 9. **Next Meeting**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018