

REB Action Group

MINUTES

Monday 9th July 2018, 7:30pm Benalla Uniting Church

1. Present:

Sandy Campbell, Kevin Smith, John Lloyd, Adrian Howden, Howard Bartlett, Peter Maddock, Cath Botta

2. Apologies: Larissa Montgomery, Frank Dunin

3. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 4th June 2018 be accepted

Moved: Howard Bartlett 2nd: Peter Maddock All in favour

4. Business Arising

- 4.1. Website is now online and live. A few sections are blank. Contributions are needed. All members to review and provide feedback and input asap
- 4.2. Registering REB name – Peter Maddock continuing to follow up with Consumer Affairs.
- 4.3. Low income assistance – progressing with the concept of a pilot meeting with 5 households to discuss energy bills and simple energy efficiency measures that could be taken to reduce those bills. The 'Pick My Project' grant application idea has been dropped.
- 4.4. Hume Renewable Energy Forum on 13 June at the Benalla Lakeside Centre. The forum provided information to help local government and other organisations facilitate the uptake of renewable energy in our region. A number of presenters including from DELWP, Powercor, Ausnet. – John and Larissa attended.

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

6.1 Buildings and Efficiency – report from Howard: the number of participants has dropped off, mixed feedback was received, Howard is finding it hard to find time to prepare and organise the session.

ACTION: Next session scheduled for 24th July will be cancelled. John and Peter will discuss potential next steps and reschedule the session for August date that has already been booked at the venue. A further session to be held in September.

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 advertisement in the Ensign and are reporting an uplift in expressions of interest. Expressions of interest open until end of July. First installation is not far away and will also represent an opportunity for publicity.

John has obtained information on electricity usage from Bernard Briggs and Munro Ave kindergartens.

Bernard Briggs has an east-west roof orientation and operates 5 day per week.

Munro Avenue has good roof orientation and operates 4 days per week.

John has sourced their electricity bills and will follow up with Chris Weir to assess potential.

Senior Citizens also has good roof orientation. Chris Weir to also assess the potential.

6.4 Utility Scale and Storage – report from Adrian

Adrian's piece on fuel excise for Cathy McGowan was presented to parliament. Continuing to look into bio-digestion, pumped hydro, and other models of solar generation. Also following up a potential pilot for a waste to energy converter for Benalla.

Noted that the financing situation is likely to change for solar farm developers once the renewable energy targets have been reached. The future for developments will be uncertain.

6. Community Energy Retailer/network

North East Community Energy Roadshow - John briefed the meeting on a Series of Community Energy Forums over 6 days/evenings from Tuesday 31st July to Sunday 5th August. Conducted in Wodonga, Bright, Wangaratta, Benalla, Beechworth, Corryong, and Tallangatta. The Benalla forum - Friday 3rd August 7.30pm at BPACC.

ACTION: John to send the flyer to all members

Kevin to organise a gift of local honey for all 3 speakers

John and Cath to discuss the MC role for session

7. General Business

7.1 Meeting with Lighthouse BP representatives – John, Kevin, Adrian and Peter met with representatives and they expressed a desire to stay in contact with our group.

7.2 Letter of thanks from Overland SunFarming – they were successful in obtaining the planning permit from council.

7.3 FRV Services - solar farm proposal near the Winton sub-station are confirmed as guest speakers at August BSGF meeting.

8. Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th August 2018