

REB Action Group

MINUTES

Tuesday 14th August 2018, 7:30pm Benalla Uniting Church

1. **Present:**
Sandy Campbell, Kevin Smith, Larissa Montgomery, John Lloyd, Frank Dunn, Peter Maddock
2. **Apologies:** Cath Botta, Adrian Howden, Howard Bartlett
3. **Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 9th July 2018 be accepted
Moved: Kevin Smith 2nd: Peter Maddock All in favour
4. **Business Arising**
 - 4.1. REB Website – The website is up and running with Peter and Bev updating as information becomes available. They still need some help with input for some of the sections.
 - 4.2. Registering REB name – Peter discussed situation with Consumer Affairs Victoria who suggested REB could just be registered as a separate incorporated association, this would just require submitting an annual statement and fee of \$57.80. Discussed the potential risk of not becoming registered and a business being able to use the REB name. After some discussion the general consensus was to continue with registering name. Peter will start to complete online form and come back to group if any clarification is required.
 - 4.3. Support for low income houses – John will catch up with Doris in September and progress with organising pilot of talking to 5 households about their electricity bill and working them through the Victorian Energy Compare website to get a \$50 rebate. (Some issues with the Energy Compare website as doesn't take into consideration the purchase of green power – should we consider raising this as an issue with Vic Energy Compare?)
 - 4.4. Benalla Community Energy Forum – Around 50 people attended. Was a bit crowded in the room and found people did not stay around for supper afterwards. However all of the speakers were good. Alison Rowe from the Moreland Energy Foundation spoke about energy justice and assistance for low income households, things that REB are trying to achieve and may be a good contact. Nikki Ison from the Community Power Agency also discussed revolving funds.
5. **Action Groups – report on action plan to implement key strategies**
 - 5.1 Buildings and Efficiency – report from John

A follow up to the last session has been organised for 21 August and will revisit the same topics as thought further information was required. Consultant from Middy's will present on lighting.
 - 5.2 Sustainable Builders / Tradies

No report.
 - 5.3 Solar and Community Energy – report from John

Mondo have only executed two contracts and are reviewing their pricing which will be offered to everyone who registered. May do further advertising and extend registration period.

Some interest in a utility scale battery storage in Benalla area.

Community energy – John has spoken to Munro Avenue and Bernard Briggs kindergartens and got copies of their power bills. Has taken a while to contact Chris Weir but he had a look and suggested a 3kW system would be big enough for Munro Avenue. PPA would need to be set up. John will look at

details and follow up – will need to get approval from North East Regional Pre School Association to get access to AusNet data. Kevin suggested we should also check what heating/cooling system there is and plan for a solar system that would allow this to be changed to a split system (if it is currently gas).

5.4 Utility Scale and Storage

National Energy Guarantee has been in the headlines this week. Outcome could have big influence on investment in large scale solar.

Lots of interesting articles emerging in the waste to energy and recycling/re-use space.

6. **Check back to Transition Strategy**

ACTION: All to review Transition Strategy and come to the next meeting with ideas which we can then workshop and develop an action plan to progress with.

7. **Community Energy Retailer**

Kevin and John attended the July meeting where discussion included creating an online network for the region, becoming incorporated and the retailer name. John will send around the notes.

8. **General Business**

As a follow up to Josh Frydenburg's visit, an invitation will be extended to the Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Mark Butler, to visit the Benalla area.

FRV will be guest speaker at the next BSFG meeting on 23 August to discuss the solar farm and potential social and environmental benefits.

9. **Next Meeting**

Monday 10th September, 7:30pm