MEETING MINUTES

MEETING TITLE:	Community Reference Group – General Meeting	DATE:	Monday 18 March 2024, 6.00pm
LOCATION:	Rokewood Hotel		
ATTENDEES:	**GPWFM:** Mark Bruty, Jackson Hill, Meryl Brumpton **CRG:** Bryan Vincent, Jo Sibbison, Sophie Whitlock, Pam Bailey, Marg Bufton, Carolyn Rankin **GPSC:** Ben Middleton		
APOLOGIES:	Susan van den Ham (GPSC)		

1. INTRODUCTION - MARK

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Mark Bruty gave a general introduction to the new people around the table and encouraged each of them to provide a short introduction for themselves including organisation, role, background etc.
- Ben Middleton (Golden Plains Shire Council Senior Economic Development Officer) spoke about his role within Council, the upcoming township plan and how he sees the GPWF, GPSC and CRG working together strategically in the future.
- Jackson Hill (WestWind Energy – Head of Delivery & Asset Management) introduced himself, his role within the GPWF project and spoke to his experience on other wind farm projects and some experiences with other iterations of CRG-style groups.
- In her absence due to late flights / late arrival, Mark Bruty spoke of Meryl Brumpton who will be in a similar Community Engagement and Land Tenure role in Roma, QLD.

2. EVENT DISCUSSION – MARK & CRG

- Discussed resourcing for Easter event - Sophie has organised herself and potentially some other mothers to assist with the children's craft activities. Carolyn & Dion / CFA are operating the BBQ and assisting with the delivering of Easter Bunny, Bryan Vincent has connected MB to Rokewood Golf Club regarding a couple of potential volunteers.
- Future Event discussion – feedback being sought from the community regarding the events that have worked well, what they would like to see more of etc.
- CRG mentioned several events that have been successful (or conducted) in the past including Rodeo, Movie Night, Tractor Pull, Rock'n Rokewood, Art collection / sales. Car boot sales etc.
- Key contacts provided: Kelly-ann Nyary, Jane (Raintree Art), Michelle De Groot.
- Discussion regarding the future of the events, GPWF / WWE to provide support and assistance, but would love for the community to drive and be an integral part of delivering events within the township. Example given: Christmas event moving towards a Christmas market event where locals can sell and buy (Christmas shopping). Providing the opportunity for more donations and money to come into the organisations / town.
- Wish to avoid events falling over due to lack of support or lack of funding. Ensure the community are behind the proposed events and leverage the financial and resource support from GPWF, GPSC etc.

3. GPSC TOWNSHIP PLAN 2024

- Ben Middleton spoke to the upcoming Township Plan process being conducted in April / May.
- Highlighted that communities with a township plan and evidence of an overarching strategy for the area, were seen favourably by all levels of government when funding is being

allocated.

- Starts with a survey process and then some workshops that are facilitated by an external consultant
- Key vision for the future of the township, economic growth and development, tourism opportunities etc.
- Ben spoke of the Tiny Towns fund for smaller communities and being able to leverage funding like this for projects or opportunities that are identified through the Township Plan process
- Sophie and Jo both added their thoughts regarding the process as they have been involved in the previous iteration. Felt that additional support was needed after the initial consultation to help action some of the ideas.
- Carolyn Rankin showed interest in being involved in the process and having a CRG member involved in this iteration of the township plan will be beneficial for the allocation of GPWF funding as the pool of money grows, and the strategy can be supported
- Look at the Community Grants supporting resourcing such as people / consultants etc to assist with projects and initiatives
- Township funding is $10k which is base funding to build out the strategy and vision

4. UPCOMING FUNDING ROUND

- Timelines: April – May (8 weeks – exact timeline to be determined and circulated)
- Encourage those previous applicants who were unsuccessful to apply again
- Continue to use the weighting matrix and be strategic with the grant funding allocation
- Change ToR to represent the partitioning of funds when the pool is at its maximum. Proposed $70k into allocated fund for legacy projects / leverage, and $150k allocated to the community grants, ensuring this is communicated correctly.

5. NEW CRG MEMBER DISCUSSION

- 3 x applications (Bianca Brehaut, Marissa Bath, Gordon Smith)
- All members who are interested and suitable should be given the opportunity to be part of the CRG.
- Look at getting a representative from all the larger community groups to sit on the CRG and be able to advocate for their fund etc.
- Accept all three new applicants and have them in place before the April grant funding starts
- Meals & support are a great show of investment into the CRG members who are giving their time etc.

6. GENERAL DISCUSSION

- Update regarding the project and discussed the narrative that Stage 2 isn't going ahead. Advised that it has been postponed currently, but is still very much continuing
- 12 turbines have been constructed, operational expectation of the GPWF is October 2025
- Brayn suggested a public meeting to provide a project update to the broader community, noting the whispers and talk that happens within the community.
- Provide the opportunity for questions and answers to be provided, more updates
- CRG feel they have good line of sight to the project and can ask Mark B any questions and receive an answer
- Proposed name change of township to 'WestWind Wokewood'.
- General discussion regarding the project, GPWF, the role of CRG, Roma and the proposed CRG in Queensland etc that was beneficial for Meryl to understand. Shared learnings etc.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm