

MEETING MINUTES

West north west Stakeholder Reference Group

Meeting #1

Date	26 May 2023
Time	5:30-7.30pm
Presenters	Stewart Sharples (SS) Charlie McAlister (CM) Robbie Casbault (RC)
Location	Circular Head Council Chambers, Smithton

Attendees

Name	Organisation
John McNab	Community Member
Brenton Hosking	Community Member (online)
Jeremy Ward	Community Member
John Bruce	Community Member
Daniel Summers	Waratah-Wynyard Council
Victoria Cotton	Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation
Vanessa Adams	Circular Head Council

Apologies

Name	Organisation
Skye Thompson	West Coast Council

Agenda

Ref no.	Item
1	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Overview of ReCFIT, Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) and Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) Membership Introduction <i>Activity: Ice Breaker – understanding, knowledge and sentiment</i>
2	Renewable Energy in Tasmania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why more renewables? What we have heard Why Renewable Energy Zones?
3	What is REZ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Activity: What is REZ – benefits, challenges, risks, impacts</i> <i>Activity: FAQ Ideas Board</i> REZ Establishment Process Why the North west region first?
4	Short Break
5	Engaging to Define the Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of engagement program and timeline North west SRG objectives and administration <i>Activity: What does success for the SRG look like?</i> SRG meeting schedule SRG
6	Stakeholder Engagement Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft community and stakeholder engagement plan <i>Activity: How are we engaging?</i> Engagement to date and upcoming activities
7	Next Session and Meeting Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next session overview: Mapping Important Places Actions for members

Minutes

Ref no.	Item
1	<p>Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country</p> <p>CM acknowledged country.</p> <p>SS and CM provided a brief introduction of ReCFIT and each presenter's role, before asking each member to provide their name and short brief of why they were interested in attending the SRG program.</p> <p>Broadly, the reasons the SRG members joined were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wanting to learn about where transmission lines are going and why • understanding and providing input on cultural & heritage factors • interest in environmental impacts from REZ and new infrastructure, and • what are the benefits and how will they be shared? <p>CM briefly provided some expectations around conduct for the group, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active participation and collaboration being encouraged • all ideas, discussion and contributions being welcomed, in a kind, open-minded, positive and respectful manner. <p>CM introduced an ice breaker activity by asking the following questions to the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where do you think you/your community is at on their REZ journey? • What are you hearing in your community? <p>Discussion and written contributions from the group, when answering the questions, displayed a neutral sentiment overall. Some key insights from members were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is limited or mixed understanding and awareness about REZ • the limited understanding is attributed to REZ being new (to Tasmanians). This is positive as engagement is early • concerns around environment, natural value impacts of transmission lines, scepticism toward the benefits, and negative views towards projects and proposals before full understanding • the idea of a REZ sounds good, and • there is great optimism towards a switch to electrification.
2	<p>Government's Renewables Agenda Overview</p> <p>SS described the benefits to the state of increasing renewable energy capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasmania currently leads the way - 100% net renewable generation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target of 200% signifies a much broader and more ambitious vision for Tasmania - beyond electricity supports decarbonisation of Tasmania (and Australia's) energy sector seeks to create jobs, building skills through training (energising Tasmania) low cost electricity generation. <p>SS emphasised the need to generate more energy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet growing demand continue delivering net zero emissions attract new economic growth to the State, and contribute to Australia and the world's renewable energy transition.
3	<p>Renewable Energy Zones overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When discussing "Why more renewables?" the group had a common misconception that we are in an energy surplus. Stewart explained that we are in Energy Balance. Whether it is on-island growth, electrification, the growth of a green industry or export of clean energy to help the rest of Australia decarbonise, we will need more energy. <p>Group sentiment was positive towards understanding the "why" which was previously an uncertain point for group members.</p>
4	<p>What is REZ?</p> <p>The group began an exercise by discussing and recording some different views on potential benefits, challenges, risks and impacts of a future REZ.</p> <p>Some common themes around benefits began to form around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> jobs education, training, and jobs for young people cheaper energy certainty for investors, and infrastructure improvements. <p>Common challenges brought forward by the group consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delays in planning processes and the current planning system not being fit for purpose gaining community trust education and training arrangements shifts in costs and policy positions stranded assets housing availability and affordability, and differing cultural views and damage to cultural heritage.
5	<p>North west REZ Program 2023</p>

	<p>Stewart described the work over the nine months to December 2023 and why the North west region was announced as the first to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides for the largest potential transfer capacity, • the lower cost per MW of new transmission capacity augmentation • high levels of existing commercial interest due to proximity to marinus and high quality wind resources, and pumped hydro potential etc. • concessional finance announced by the Commonwealth for the North West Transmission Development - suppresses cost impacts on Tasmanian customers. <p>What the next steps look like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range of technical studies relating to transmission and design of the offering for proponents who may wish to locate in the REZ (costs and other features like access, connection processes) • a dedicated community engagement program which aims at educating and providing opportunities for community to participate, including SRG-establishment and in-region targeted sessions, pop-ups, forums etc.
6	15 min break
7	<p>North west Stakeholder Reference Group</p> <p>CM provided an overview of the SRG's role, that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to inform and guide REZ processes, ensuring lasting local community benefits • encouraging a cooperative and regionally consistent approach • council and community representation • continued and open collaboration with your community <p>Members of the SRG were asked, what does success for the SRG look like? Answering this question opened discussion, which captured the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keeping the community informed in plain English • clearly explaining how to generate new power, connecting to existing infrastructure with the least amount of environmental damage • explaining that REZ establishment is not a project proposal (e.g. this is not a wind farm proposal), rather REZ is simply a great area for any renewable project to be situated • what if proponents spend more to upgrade existing infrastructure instead of cutting through new transmission lines? • SRG success would ensure deeper connection with community and provide legacy for existing projects.
8	<p>Terms of reference & code of conduct</p> <p>CM requested the following regarding group administration:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SRG code of conduct to be signed by all members by close of session • it was agreed that the Terms of Reference (ToR) will be amended based on feedback from SRG members and the final ToR will be circulated for endorsement post-session.
9	<p>SRG meeting schedule</p> <p>CM provided a proposed overview of the SRG engagement schedule and timing, including key SRG-session milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May - Mapping Important Places • June - Community benefit schemes, Local procurement, skills and jobs • July - Assessment Criteria • August - Future Directions Paper (Will take inputs from SRG and provide a public facing document for broad community consultation on shortlisted REZ and proposed market offering) <p>CM asked the group to offer additional input into the schedule and provide suggestions on how the group would like to be engaged in future sessions, including ideas on other topics to cover, in relation to REZ.</p> <p>Members agreed to provide some input on this prior to the next SRG meeting.</p>
10	<p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p> <p>CM described the draft plan that has been developed and will seek input and endorsement of the SRG out of session, prior to the next sitting.</p>
11	<p>Engagement Update</p> <p>Charlie has advised the SRG of what we have done to date.</p> <p>Members are given an opportunity to advise with regards to what events are happening that we could attend.</p> <p>We are open for any feedback.</p>
12	<p>Next Session Overview: Mapping Important Places</p> <p>SS provided the purpose of the next SRG session and other work occurring, supplementary to the SRG with regards to 'mapping', which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek input from the community on important places & values • consider places of value to the north west community, in the context of hosting energy transmission infrastructure, renewable energy generation and storage • seek input from government agencies on values for which they are responsible (i.e. heritage/environment/forestry/mining/agriculture)

Actions

No.	Action	Owner	Due
1	Send presentation slide deck to members	Robbie Casbault	09/05/2023
2	Victoria to send NAIDOC week information	Victoria Cotton	Complete
3	Vanessa to investigate potential youth candidates to represent the WNW SRG	Vanessa Adams	Next meeting
4	Prepare for next session – mapping important places and values to the north west community and identifying places where renewables would best be located	All members	Next meeting
5	Identify additional events for ReCFIT to attend, additional stakeholders to add to the Plan, suggest communication channels and networks to increase reach	All members	Next meeting