***REB Action Group***

**MINUTES**

 **Tuesday 19th February 2019, 7:30pm Benalla Uniting Church**

1. **Present:**

Kevin Smith, Larissa Montgomery, John Lloyd, Peter Maddock, Bev Lee, Anette Jones, Sandy Campbell

1. **Apologies:** Cath Botta
2. **Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

 *Motion: That the minutes of the meeting of 10th December 2018 be accepted*

 Moved: Sandy Campbell 2nd: Kevin Smith All in favour

1. **Business Arising**
	1. Mondo Bulk Buy – Kevin, Peter, John and Larissa met with Matt on 7 February to discuss the bulk buy. Following the meeting Matt drafted a report reviewing the bulk buy and potential reasons for it being unsuccessful, hard copies were circulated. Some of the discussion around the report and the bulk buy:
* Uncertainty around the value of the Ubi, would infrastructure be in place for example for a community battery, batteries really need to be in place to make Ubi of value, Ubi has the potential for peer to peer trading
* Solar, Ubi, potential for mini-grid is too complicated and confusing for most people. Most will just look at the price.
* Using the words ‘bulk buy’ suggests should be a cheaper option
* Should REB be aligning with AusNet / Mondo or any commercial companies?
* REB should concentrate on information and education on solar rather than bulk buys
* Information sessions served to increase interest in solar, people possibly went away and did own research to compare
	1. BZE Electrifying Industry forum – has been rescheduled to 26th March, 3pm- 5pm. Will change the way it is advertised to target small and medium sized businesses as well. John assisting with sourcing speakers including Bright Brewery and Benalla Timber Products.
	2. Solar Gardens – Kevin has done some investigation into several different types of solar garden models. Enova in QLD is one example, has retail arrangement with a community energy retailer. Would be potential for Indigo Power to do similar. Another option is to fund a solar farm and work with a retailer to sell the power. Will keep an eye on the situation, especially in relation to progress of Indigo Power and future opportunity to partner. Also solar farms and whether could incorporate locally owned aspect.
1. **Correspondence**
	1. A few emails have been received via the website. John has been receiving them.
2. **Action Groups – report on action plan to implement key strategies**

6.1 Waste to Energy – no update

6.2 Community Energy Project

Kindergartens still waiting on inspection. Could consider installer other than Mondo. James Bramwell from SV was hoping to come to meeting but couldn’t make it – he may be able to assist with the project.

1. **Key learnings/ideas from articles distributed**
	1. Totally Renewable Yackandandah
* Did a lot of community engagement
* Need story to tell, markets, street stalls, talking to community groups
* Talked to major users in town, hospital, NEW (in line hydro, floating solar)
* Scale of need to decarbonise is huge (pg 44)
	1. Z-NET Uralla
* Have a project officer
* Home energy reviews, thermal imaging
* Monitors on appliances
* Developed own spreadsheet
* Starfish initiative to get things done
* Pay attention to renters
* Vision and mission statement
* Renewable energy, energy efficiency, save on energy bills
* Focussed on inefficient refrigeration
* Thermal backed curtains workshop
* Draft proofing workshops
* Encouraging solar on rented homes

**ACTION:** Peter to contact Z-Net to get the energy assessment spreadsheet.

1. **Brainstorming**

The group brainstormed ideas for actions that REB could undertake – report attached.

1. **Prioritise things we need to do to implement Transition Strategy**

After considering all of the suggested actions, the two highest priorities were:

1. Community engagement and publicity
	* Need to consider young people in engagement

**ACTION:** Larissa to talk to Council’s youth development coordinator about how best to engage with young people

1. Energy Efficiency Workshops and education
	* James Bramwell from SV may be able to assist
	* Efficiency for renters and business also important
2. **Community Climate Change Adaptation Grants**

Discussed the proposal to partner with Goulburn Valley Community Energy to apply for a grant to support upgrades to vulnerable households and building community resilience – house energy assessments and retrofits included. All were in support of this project. John to continue to work with Geoff Lodge on grant application.

1. **General Business**
	1. Attracting more support / members, was discussed during brainstorming session. Important to work towards more members and assistance with discreet tasks.
	2. John presented to the BRC Community Plan Implementation Steering Committee.
	3. John has been invited to present at an upcoming meeting of the Labour Party Benalla Branch
2. **Next Meeting**

Monday 19th March @ 1pm, Council offices