

Balingup Rail Group (BPA) Update 4 September 2024

The Balingup Rail Group (BRG) is pleased to be able to update the BPA meeting (4 September 2024) on the progress of the ***Zero Emissions High Yield Tourist Commuter Services on the Bridgetown-Bunbury Rail Line*** feasibility study.

Delivery of the Final Report and Business Case

Rail specialists appointed by the BRG, Linqage International, are scheduled to deliver the final report and business case by this coming Friday 6 September 2024.

In total, this large-scale project, initiated in 2018 by a BPA resolution concerning the impact of the volume of truck movements on Balingup and towns on the South West Highway between Bunbury and Greenbushes and the feasibility of tourist and commuter services on the line, has taken six years to complete. The Linqage International consultancy component of the project has taken twelve months to complete.

Proposed Detailed Briefing of the BPA Executive Members, key Decision Makers and Co-Funders

Detailed briefings on the report and business plan for key decision makers and feasibility study co-funders are to be undertaken across the South West and Perth metropolitan area over the months of September and October 2024. Co-funders are Talison Lithium, the City of Bunbury and Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Capel and Dardanup and the Balingup Progress Association.

Multiple Environmental, Social, Economic and Safety Benefits Identified and Quantified

The report and business case has identified multiple and measurable benefits to the community and these form the focus of the briefings.

Recommendation

- (i) That the BPA Executive determine a suitable date for a detailed briefing of the BPA Executive on the report in the first instance. Available timeslots in September are Tuesday 10 September 2024 (PM) or Thursday 26 September 2024 (between 1.00pm and 4.00pm); and
- (ii) That a date be set by BPA and the BRG for a community briefing on the report and business plan in October 2024.

Gary Hodge

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