

## MINUTES

OF

B.P.A. SUB-COMMITTEE (BALINGUP RAIL GROUP) MEETING at Balingup Community Meeting Room on Thursday 31 August 2023 at 1.00pm.

PRESENT : M. Lee, G.Hodge, A.Oades, M.Copeland

APOLOGIES : D.Gordon, P. Scallan, Clr. J. Boyle, G. O'Rourke, I. McGuire.

MINUTES OF MEETING 13 July 2023:

- previously circulated and accepted as a correct record.

WELCOME TO COMMITTEE: Chair welcomed M/s A. Oades to the Committee representing Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

#### Inwards:

City of Bunbury	12.7.23
B. Rose (CEO; Shire Donnybrook-Balingup)	13,18.7.23
G. Hodge	15.7/15.8.23
Preston Press	17.7.23
W.Trow (President; BPA)	18.7.23
Shire Bridgetown-Greenbushes	21.7.23
B. Edwards (CEO; BGEA)	24.7/18.8.23
B. Green (Donnybrook Community Radio)	26.7.23
D. Gordon	27.7.23
Shire of Dardanup	3.8.23
J. Hornum (BPA)	8,22.8.23

C. Le Marshall (Linqage)	16,21,22,23.8.23
R. Van Toledo (VTG)	23.8.23
<u>Outwards:</u>	
CEO, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	12,18.7.23
I. McGuire (Talison)	15.7.23
G. Hodge	15,31.7/15.8.23
J. Hornum (Treasurer; BPA)	17.7.23
I. Shore (Alstom ANZ)	18.7.23
CEO, Shire of Dardanup	12.8.23
C. Le Marshall (Linqage)	15,23.8.23
R. Van Toledo (VTG)	15.8.23
B. Edwards (CEO, BGEA)	17.8.23
BRG Feasibility Study Panel	23.8.23

## BUSINESS

1. BRG Application to Community Small Grants Fund (Native Forest Transition) for Funds for Feasibility Study.
  - G. Hodge reported that decision yet to be made on the application.
2. Funds Received by BPA for Feasibility Study.
  - Chair reported that all contributions, other than that still being organised from the Shire Capel, had been received
3. BRG Meeting with Talison (Ian McGuire) 18 July 2023.
  - Chair reported that BRG, represented by the Chair and G. Hodge, had met with Talison to discuss the terms of the BRG scoping document for the BRG tourist rail feasibility study.
4. BRG Meeting with Donnybrook-Balingup Shire 3 August 2023.
  - Chair reported that at the Shire's request BRG, represented by the Chair and G.Hodge, met with Shire representatives , B.Rose (CEO), and A.Oades to outline current work of BRG and to forecast future

cooperation with the Shire in the conduct of community meetings to explain the social and economic benefit to result from installation of a tourist/commuter rail service.

5. Alstom ANZ and Zero Emissions Passenger Rail Service.

- Chair reported that a response from Alstom was still awaited.

6. BRG Meeting with Bunbury Geographe Economic Alliance 4.8.2023.

- Chair reported that the Chair, G.Hodge, P. Scallan and G. O'Rourke met with B. Edwards, CEO of BGEA, at the Bunbury office to receive a presentation from RCR Engineering on customised, built-for-purpose rolling stock and infrastructure capable of providing efficient movement of lithium ore from mine to port, and to treatment facilities, if the rail line were re-opened.

7. BRG Feasibility Study Panel Meeting 4 August 2023.

- Chair and G. Hodge reported that at conclusion of the meeting with BGEA the BRG Feasibility Study Panel (Chair, Hodge, Scallan and O'Rourke) met to settle an amended draft of BRG feasibility study scoping document. Panel agreed that the amended document be forwarded to the quoting parties, Linage International and Van Toledo Group, for revision of quotes.

8. BRG Meeting with P.Brett and B. Rettinger 16 August 2023.

- Chair and G. Hodge reported that at the request of P. Brett ( a Brookhampton resident) and B. Rettinger (a Bunbury resident involved in promoting a strategy for tourism development in Bunbury region) BRG met with them to explain the work and objectives of the Committee, in particular, the development of a feasibility study for a tourist/commuter service on the Bunbury-Bridgetown rail line. B. Rettinger advised that in previous work in his profession he had experience in the organisation of meetings for community briefings and would be available to assist the Committee in that regard if required.

9. Talison Public Information Meeting at Balingup 14 August 2023.

- Chair tabled an extract from social media commenting on the above meeting. The comments revealed a need for distribution to the public of information on the substantial economic and social benefits to be delivered from restoration of the rail line for freight and passenger services. Agreed that raising this awareness would be a principal purpose of contact with the public by BRG to promote progress of the tourist/commuter rail service feasibility study in due course.

10. Publicity – ‘Preston Press’ August Issue.

- Committee noted its appreciation of the front-page photograph and BRG interview published in the above issue of the local community magazine.

11. Tourist Rail Services.

- Chair advised that he had recently contacted Kevin Pearce, a longstanding and experienced operator of tourist rail services in this State and in Java, to inform him of the work of BRG. Coincidentally only shortly before that contact Mr Pearce had sent a letter (17 August 2023) to the Minister for Transport pointing out the importance of tourist rail services. Mr Pearce forwarded a copy of that letter to BRG and it is attached to the Minutes. Chair to fix a date for a meeting with Mr Pearce to discuss matters relevant to the BRG feasibility study.

12. Publicity by BRG on Progress of Feasibility Study.

- Committee conducted general discussion on this issue including planning and timing. Agreed matter be carried forward for further consideration at the next Meeting.

Meeting closed at 2.20pm

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2023.

---