



East Gippsland Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

ABN 80960270283

Postal Address POBox 501 Metung 3904

e-mail secretary@egrra.org.au

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GENERAL MEETING –
WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2023
FROM 5PM AT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE DALMAHOY ST BAIRNSDALE

MINUTES

PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present - Peter Jones **PJ**, John Butler-Cole **JBC**, Cosette Murphy **CM**,

Jeanette Wagner JW Ros Seymour, Elsa Hodge Neil Barraclough and Joanne Eastman

Apologies - Janiece Grenfell, Annameka Jongsma, Jackie Thorn, Janine Hadley

Welcome . Peter Jones -President took the chair welcomed all attendees summarizing current position/progress of EGRRRA and a recent personal meeting with EGSC 's CEO Anthony Basford. Peter will summarise this meeting for the record.

Treasurer statement. CM advised that after payments for website and hosting the bank statement indicates \$ 1614

Minutes of previous 4th October meeting

- acceptance proposed by Jeanette Wagner ,seconded by Neil Barraclough

1 . Member communication- Facebook and Website -Progress

After technical delays website landing page is live ready for additional information pages to be added. Members please look up www.egrra.org.au and submit suggestions for additions/modifications to be considered.

CM advised that our facebook page currently compromised by inappropriate unauthorized /monitored third party comments and details of the issue had been reported to facebook. CM has been advised that this facebook page will be removed first week December and a new facebook page will be generated to replace it.

Action CM and



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2. Grant Progress

Peter Jones is progressing grants for the organisation. A current application to EG Community Foundation has received initial positive response and is being processed through their system. **Action PJ**

3. Search and selection of councillor Candidates

-_Membership drive must include remote communities. The early ability to include ratepayers and residents from these communities in our meetings through on line video conferencing is critical. We are about to commenced discussion with the EG. Neighborhood House community group network. **Action PJ**

JBC apologises for delays in sorting the bulk emailing system listings s for Management, Members , Associate groups and Contacts **Action JBC**

4. Profile .

Press and radio opportunities - Yeates Media and Reg FM have been approached and proposals advised , both organisations will be followed up in the next month. **Action PJ**

5. Council Watch -update

EGRRA is a group member of Council Watch and we receive regular advice on issues affecting all Local Government's in Victoria. As these are of general interest communications they will be published on our website and facebook pages.

Question to Council Watch – advise on public access to records of Meetings in Camera and public attendance to councillor briefing sessions. **Action JBC**

6. Open Discussion on current EG community issues

.1. **Brookfield Development-** Verbal report given to CM- No further progress- EGRRA recommends Special Interest Group (SIG) to keep engaged with Martin Richardson on a regular -fortnightly basis- to identify planning process progress with target dates .

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2. Solar Farms . Verbal Report to CM notes positive interest and engagement of councillors involving site visits. It was noted that Tim Bull had not responded to SIG requests to become involved. Since this meeting Tim Bull has now made a visit to be briefed by the Special interest Group (SIG). Note: Several proposed large scale Solar Farms with permits are being delayed or put on hold assumed due to financing issues.

3. Libraries and Service centres review

EGRRRA received a response to our request for information on the Library and Service Centre review . EGSC has stated it will take 4months to process the data received and present its recommendation for council decision. The shire have not offered to share the collected data and the impression remains that they have already decided on service reduction having reduced service centre hours from Jan 2023 CM please confirm.

The Shire website still indicates they have 7 libraries in East Gippsland and a fixed schedule mobile library service . The mobile service is irregular advised due to unserviceable vehicles and community feedback on disabled accessibility is unsatisfactory .

Action CM

4. Mining and resources

Joanne Eastman joined the meeting to update and alert us to the new planning regulations removing the decision making planning processes away from local government to the State Planning Authority. Action JW – can we obtain an understanding and update on what MFG need from EGRRRA in addition to getting the new Mayor to attend our next meeting to explain the significance of moving the input from local government.

5. 24/25 EGSC Budget

We continue to review the past three years of rates chargeouts and uncollected rates to confirm they comply with the annual State rates cap. The issues of capital project roll over each year, the declaration by Fiona Weigall that they would deliver the complete the full \$115m 23/24 capital budget within this year. The lack of any changes to the draft budget in spite of 62 community submissions and a call from the State and federal



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government as well as the community for fiscal restraint this and future years to reduce inflation. – **Action PJ and JBC**

6. Governance and Community consultation. Governance improvement of EGSC is our main issue – the reason for promoting new and more effective councillors to represent our issues.

The Shire is said to be working on a new policy/plan for community consultation we will request to be considered for inclusion as critical stakeholders. **Action JBC**

7. Green Waste. CM brought to our attention the issue allowing free disposal of 1m3 of green waste being limited to the Month of November . This year the fire season commenced 5 weeks early and residents needed the free concession to run without validity restriction. Why not a voucher system as supplied for household waste?. Too late for this year but JBC will send a suggestion to feedback to test the reaction. **JBC Action**

8. Sustainable Timber Industry - -Neil Baraclough- Leader of our Timber Industry special interest Group advised on his continued focus on the failure of State controlled timber Industry to properly manage all aspects over the past few decades which has lead to the current negative government approach to the early cessation of old growth forest harvesting and destruction of a key part of the East Gipps rural economy.

Action NB Please advise by next meeting what action EGRRRA can take that would assist in lodging your protest and alternative solution.

9. AOB – Members and visitors please raise or expand on areas of concern requiring Egrra attention. – No time this meeting for additional items . We continue to request items for inclusion in next meeting. Email secretary@egrra.org.au

**Meeting Closed at 7pm Next meeting General meeting 6th December 2023 5pm
Bairnsdale Neighborhood House**

JBC Secretary 12.11. 23