



East Gippsland Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023 @ 5PM
AT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE DALMAHOY ST BAIRNSDALE

MINUTES

Present – committee- John Butler-Cole (JBC) Cosette Murphy(CM) Elsa Hodge (EH)
Jeanette Wagner(JW) plus 6 members and 2 guests

Apologies Peter Jones (PJ), Jan Grenfell (JG) Ros Seymour (RS) Kel Waites, Jackie Thorn

Welcome . The meeting approved John Butler-Cole's proposal to take the Chair as Peter Jones' departure from Melbourne had been delayed and is listed as an apology

Treasurer statement CM advised the current bank balance at 30th Nov after settlement of the website purchase was \$1613 with no transactions in the month. At each meeting the treasurer collects a donation from each attendee to finance the Neighbourhood House meeting room hire

Minutes of previous meeting. The minutes and secretary's notes of the previous meeting held 1st November 23 were circulated by email to all members . The acceptance of these minutes as a true record proposed by JW and seconded by JE

Critical current issues

State government decision making -further erosion of community influence – new EGSC community consultation policy The meeting agreed that government centralization of decision making was endangering community democratic participation and set to stifle community input into decision making. The systematic gagging of community input from closed councillor briefing sessions has been advised to EGSC and the CEO (now resigned) has advised replacement community consultation policy is said to be drafted.**ACTION Sec will write to EGSC to confirm timeline and arrangements for community input**

Federal drive for 'green power'- Taxpayer funding The meeting agreed the latest federal and State movement to accelerate progress to renewables and critical mineral mining development would further reduce the ability of the community to positively influence decision making

ACTION JBC will draft letter to Shire and Politicians asking that we be considered as



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Finding quality councilor candidates for Nov 2024 elections

Lengthy discussion around advertising for potential candidates – The meeting agreed to the early drafting of the proposed advert and that great care would be needed in the proposed wording to be agreed by all attendees at this meeting prior to release

ACTION – Secretary to draft advert text for approval and target initial media release in February 2024

EGSC 24/25 Budget – JBC advised that EGSC Manager -Finance Liz Collins explanation of compliance with the 3.5% rates cap was so far unsatisfactory claiming the calculation was 'complex 'and council had followed state government reporting requirement'

Action Sec will continue to request satisfactory explanation from EGSC

- 1 .Member communication Facebook and Website -Progress
 - New facebook page should be launched before 12th Dec after discussion with Leading Edge . After launching it will be linked to the Website CM and JBC will be Administrators and others can then be given access rights. Guidelines need to be adopted **ACTION CM and JBC**
2. Grant Progress – PJ was encouraged to apply to for a 'Community Events' grant but was not approved we have been advised to apply again in the New year
3. _Membership drive JBC reported this has stalled at this time - It was discussed and decided to return to this subject in February 2024
4. Profile . Press and radio opportunities – Progress Yeates Media have not replied to our request for a regular opinion column. - Discussion with Reg Fm to run an interview series with talk back have so far failed to produce positive results. We will continue to negotiate to obtain a solution while investigating other opportunities with ABC and Holst Advertising – The great Eastern mail **ACTION- PJ**



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5. Council Watch -update- we continue to receive newsletters and assistance from 'Council Watch. Selectively these are reviewed by JBC and circulated where appropriate. EH raised the issue that there are many community action groups developing around the state EH has been asked to record details of all she comes across for potential common interest Action JBC and EH

6. EG community issues brought to EGRRA attention and being addressed -update

1. Brookfield Development there has been little progress on this issue in the month. The common factor with these developer projects is the lack of an advised clear consultation process and progress information for all stakeholders .

2. Solar Farms. Eventual visit to site by Tim Bull. Letter from State Planning Minister(Kilkenny) to Darren Chester stating that no Planning permit application yet in place and outlining planning objection process. No current action from EGRRA required

3. Libraries and Service centres review

EGSC states it will take 3 months to collate the 12 month data from all service centre /libraries and produce recommendation to council in February /March. Still do not have detail of when, or if this data will be made public. The promise of additional mobile services has been compromised by unreliable vehicles, EGRRA suggest a satisfaction survey of mobile service users **ACTION CM**

4 .Mining and resources

The meeting agreed that delivery meaningful and effective community consultation processes will be adversely affected with recent State Planning regulations changes and federal government blind approach to the potential long term effects of mineral extraction. **Buchan quarry project** -no further information from EGSC Planning Dept, **Critical Minerals** JE suggested an information tour of the Finger Boards Project proposed extraction area, Also advised was a change of company name and directors at Kalbar

5. 24/25 EGSC Budget. EGRRA needs to request access to the 24/25 budget finalization process in February 2024 . The concern is the effects of this budget will need to be

managed by the newly elected council in a potentially recessionary fiscally tight period over the next 4 years and should not be hamstrung by excessive expenditures in areas of lesser priority **ACTION JBC**



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6. Governance and Community consultation WE have been advised by the CEO that a new community consultation plan is to be worked on without community input!!

Governance rules for next Council 4 year term must include more transparency and involvement of community Further discussion required to define EGRRA action

7. Green Waste The meeting view was that green waste disposal should be free. Delivered to transfer stations for processing into products for horticultural use as a commercial venture

8. Sustainable Timber Industry

NB advanced his position and reasoning on this issue . There is the compelling issue of city government decision making often involving banning or major reduction or total elimination as opposed to introduction of different and time proven management practices. He advocates a joint action of both Wellington Shire and EGSC to follow The EGSC proposal for a sustainable timber industry. As with most subjects we engage with there are differing and sometimes opposing views . each view is respected. mNeil has requested EGRRA to keep its members informed and updated we value NB's input into this issue **Action NB to keep us informed**

8. AOB – Members and visitors please raise or expand on areas of concern requiring Egrra attention.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.11 pm **wishing all those present and the membership a MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Next General meeting will be 5pm -Neighbourhood House
Dalmahoy St Bairnsdale Wednesday FEBRUARY 7TH 2014.**

All members and associates are encouraged to attend and contribute.

JBC Secretary 8.12.23

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