



East Gippsland Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc.

EGRRRA ABN 80960270283

“Championing your concerns with Local Government”

Minutes of General meeting Wednesday March 6TH 2024.- Neighbourhood House Dalmahoy St Bairnsdale

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1 .- **Welcome**

John Butler-Cole Secretary was approved to take the Chair and welcomed all present at 5.10pm –

Attendees

John Butler-Cole –(JBC) Secretary, Cosette Murphy(CM) Treasurer and Media, Elsa Hodge(EH) Candidate assistance programme – Neil Barraclough Jeanette Wagner, Roz Seymour, Karen Neophytou, +2 AJ and JE

Attendance record – Thank you for your attendance Appendix 1

2. - **Apologies** were recorded from Peter Jones, John Stewart, Marguarite Byrne, William and Marilyn Monfries , Mand D Shanahan

3 **New Members confirmation** 3 new members to our membership list Appendix 2

4. **EGRRRA’s direction and planning Report** – JBC -Secretary

Meeting with Mayor requested by letter dated 22nd January to address matters of community concern has yet to be actioned in 6 weeks. Meeting to discuss community consultation on 24/25 draft budget has been advised as 6th May

Current media strategy to develop the profile of EGRRRA utilizing series of articles in GEM these will also be published on facebook and our website . I was agreed to approach Yeates again for inclusion in the free weekend as suggested by EH

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We have been working on content for a series of articles to run in Great Eastern Mail GEM. Five articles have gone to press 1.'Who is EGRRRA' 2.'Time of Change at East Gippsland Shire 3. Correspondence to mayor .4. Capital Project funding 5.'Communication fail' followed fortnightly by titles 6. Draft 24/25 budget 7. community consultation 8. Shire Rates, 9.Approved Budget and expenditure.

Each article will be available on the website and facebook page one week after publishing in compliance with our verbal agreement with GEM

Two areas we are working on are Radio talk back and development of a blog

5. **Treasurer's Statement**

CM provided available balances 7th February and 6th March with detail February transactions to meeting and recorded for management in Appendix 3. Treasurer's statement proposed seconded and approved

6. **Secretary's statement** – Minutes of previous meeting 6th Dec 23 proposed by CM and seconded by EH

We are working on a critical path calendar leading up to the October 29th EGSC council election which will be posted on the website, facebook and updated for each meeting to ensure we meet critical dates for media releases and councillor candidate training and registration. **ACTION JBC and EH**

The preparation and input into media releases and following through with correspondence is time consuming. I will be preparing a hard copy file of incoming and outgoing correspondence for viewing at each meeting.

7. **Councillor Search**- Member input to identify suitable potential candidates is required. . All applicants will be assessed equally in public forums . EGRRRA recognizes that the final election process is by ballot on election day – 29th October 2024 and members preferences will be guided by each individual applicants demonstrated abilities. We have already commenced the initial discussion with the first candidate The list of potential candidates will be held by the Secretary at this stage.

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EH is finalizing the calendar of key dates in the candidate registration process and identifying the VEC process requirements. The next action is to define the on boarding and training commencing with information sessions involving current and former serving councillors **ACTION EH and JBC**

8. **Membership drive** –EG Field Days 5th /6th April. This event provides one of the best opportunities to increase membership and followers JBC has booked a stand in the covered area to check cost and available assistance prior to end February **Action JBC**

9. **Current special interest group update reports – each Special Interest Group operates independently advising status regularly requesting assistance as required**

We are currently assisting

The Friends of Libraries Group Objecting to reduction in proposed Library and service centre provisions ‘

Sustainable forestry. Niel Baraclough updated us on latest information regarding commercial timber plantations and the negative effects of utilizing productive agric. Land for this purpose, while sustainable timber harvesting of old growth forests is still an option with correct management. Neil requested an agreed EGRRA submission/question be drafted in respect of rate category being applied.

The Brookfield Residents objecting to inappropriate planning permit change from retirement village to temporary housing park No further progress advised by EGSC planning. Brookfield Residents need to write to Martin Richardson for an update

The Solar farms and Renewable Energy Group Raising concerns and objecting to unsuitable development of Solar farms. Council are developing a submission to the Minister on the first solar farm approval in the area – This is advised to send EGSC a request to see the submission on 910 Princes Hwy before it is sent as this will likely be used as the only community influence to be considered by the minister.

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The Bossie Court Metung Group Residents objecting to inappropriate development – await update.

– Metung Residents –have reinvigorated **Metung Village Preservation Assoc** to keep a close watch on all commercial and residential developments in and around Metung

We have asked them to keep in touch so that we can keep an oversight of all contentious EG. Developments, building a database of EGSC issues. **ACTION CM**

Raymond Island Residents Association- William Monfries to detail Raymond Island issues currently being addressed where EGRRRA might be able to help. I expect to meet with William Monfries 13th -20th March to discuss **ACTION William and JBC**

Mine Free Glenaladale – JE advised no progress to report

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

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Note Appendices 1-4 advised above available only to committee members and financial members by request to the secretary

Note for Members and followers

1.Assistance at the East Gippsland Field Days EGRRRA Information Booth 5th and 6thApril 9.30am -4.30pm – Grab a 2hr slot!

2. Speak to your friends and neighbours about becoming a councillor.

Preparation ,assistance and mentoring -we can lead each candidate through the process as required.

Next General Meeting – 3rd April 2024

John Butler-Cole – Secretary 13th March 2024