

Office News Report --- February 2015

Good afternoon folks,

Another busy month for us here at the office.

Nationally, we've written to all federal parliamentarians about keeping the RET (Renewable Energy Target) program (5 Feb). A big thanks to Joseph Mula, HOPE Member, for preparing this statement. Joseph has also drafted a more streamlined Business Plan for the committee's consideration (see Ordinary Meeting agenda, 14 March noted further down)

Locally, we have commenced our monthly Community Forum program with Dave Grubb and Pam Pittaway speaking on "Organics – more than growing food" (7 February). Our guest speaker for the 7 March forum is Mrs Rachel Smith, Senior Transport Planner with AECOM who will speak to her recently launched book "Decongestion – 7 steps for Mayors and other City Leaders to cut traffic congestion, without the expense of new roads or annoyed residents". (see Toowoomba News section for further information)

The office also submitted a composite equipment grant application to the Queensland State Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) on 23 January. Fingers crossed we get all the funding we asked for!

Energy Efficiency workshop program for Darling Downs and South-West Queensland

For several months now, the office has been investigating the possibility of staging a series of "free" Energy Efficiency workshops for NGOs, schools and churches located in centres west of Toowoomba.

To date, we have been liaising with Ecomplish Consulting (<http://www.ecomplish.com.au/>) and Excel Solar (<http://www.excel solar.com.au/>) about providing *Smart Living* and *Going Solar* presentations respectively; and seeking partnership and/or funding or both from National Energy Efficiency Network (NEEN - <http://neen.org.au/>) and Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC - <http://www.qmdc.org.au/>).

We hope to submit a formal application to NEEN and QMDC in coming weeks.

Meeting Notice – Ordinary Meeting, Saturday 14 March 2015

HOPE's next quarterly Ordinary Meeting is to be held on Saturday 14 March 2015 at the 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, Qld.

Current agenda items include:

- Annual Survey feedback
- T-shirt Logo Competition report
- Report on 1st Community Forum
- Report on 2nd Community Forum
- Feedback on Membership Fees proposal
- Feedback on draft Business Plan (Ver. 4.2 – prepared by Joseph Mula, Feb 2015)
- Feedback on 2015 Proposed and Planned Activities
- Income - Advertising rates; Annual Pledge facility; and Sponsorship program
- Other business – if you have any items to add, please contact the office by 11 March.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times by appointment only.

Phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming along for a chat or to access the library.