

# THE TRANSFORMER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to the fourth edition of *The Transformer* - an update from the Smart Transformation Project.

Smart Transformation operates in Dysart and Moranbah and aims to future-proof our communities as we face the rapid technological changes being brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution or 4IR for short.

While supported by BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), Smart Transformation operates independently and is driven by the two towns' Smart Transformation Advisory Councils. Council members capture feedback and advice from the communities they call home, to direct resources and effort into projects important to local residents.



*Connectivity Project Leads from the Smart Transformation Advisory Councils Brianna Baggow (Moranbah) and Sandy Moffatt (Dysart).*

## \$3.5 million Digital Connectivity Project kicks off

**Digital connectivity in both Dysart and Moranbah will be upgraded through a \$3.5m project driven by Smart Transformation along with partners BHP, Telstra and the Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3).**

"Improved Digital Connectivity" was identified by the Smart Transformation Advisory Councils (STACs), along with the Youth Advisory Council, as their number one priority.

The Smart Transformation Advisory Councils (STACs) in Moranbah and Dysart – along with partners BHP, Telstra and the Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) announced the Digital Connectivity Project which will provide enhanced digital connectivity to both towns to support current and new businesses and industry; schools and community groups.

With the support of major funders BHP and Telstra and assistance from the Federal Government, the project will allow both towns to enjoy faster and more reliable internet speeds, as well as capitalise on opportunities stemming from the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and support the communities' ongoing pandemic recovery.

Smart Transformation aims to support these two towns transform and access the opportunities new technology provides.

"This project has been led by the community, for the benefit of the community and the STAC members can't wait to see it come to fruition," Dysart STAC member and Project Lead Sandy Moffatt said.

"Improved digital connectivity will fundamentally change lives in our town – since the

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pandemic so much has moved online and our existing services were struggling to keep up.

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*We are grateful to the funders for really listening to our community and supporting this project.*  
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**SANDY MOFFAT** - DYSART STAC MEMBER AND PROJECT LEAD

Moranbah STAC member and Project Lead Brianna Baggow echoed these comments.

"This is a really exciting project that's got the potential to make sure our communities can fully embrace the technological change and opportunity coming our way through 4IR.

"Improved connectivity is vital for local businesses and organisations not only for their current operations but for future growth. The schools are also looking for improved wi-fi access to provide students with continued access to all of the latest online offerings."

The project is expected to take 12 months to complete and is managed by GW3 and a Local Working Group involving STAC members; representatives from major funders Telstra and BHP, and Isaac Regional Council.

**If you have any questions about this transformative project, or would like more information, please contact us at [smartransformation@outlook.com](mailto:smartransformation@outlook.com).**

## From the partners

**Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) CEO Kylie Porter said the Digital Connectivity Project is a great example of collaboration resulting in collective impact.**

"The world is evolving and now, more than ever, our regions need access to improved digital connectivity to drive their businesses and support community and education aspirations," she said.

"This Digital Connectivity Project is a real-life demonstration of how we can all come together to create future opportunity."

BMA Asset President James Palmer welcomed BHP's support for this community-led project.

"This will deliver faster and more consistent connectivity for Moranbah and Dysart; strongly positioning the region for new economic opportunities," he said.

"Along with driving new economic opportunities, reliable and fast digital connectivity will also improve community liveability.

"The 50 per cent funding contribution to the project comes from BHP's Vital Resources Fund which is focused on supporting the economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19."

Telstra Regional General Manager Rachel Cliffe said Telstra was absolutely committed to the people, communities and businesses in regional Australia and had invested billions of dollars to extend and enhance its mobile network to the far reaches of our country.

"We know better than anyone the challenges of providing telecommunications services in regional and rural communities – and the huge benefits for Australia this brings," Ms Cliffe said.

"This region is a powerhouse in Queensland's economy and we're pleased to be involved in this project that will boost coverage and future-proof the mobile network across the Moranbah and Dysart communities.

"It's co-investment projects like this that are critical for ensuring our country becomes a leading digital economy and regional Australia doesn't get left behind."



**James Palmer, BMA  
Asset President**



**Kylie Porter, GW3  
Chief Executive**



**Rachel Cliffe,  
Telstra Regional  
General Manager**



Smart Transformation's Digital Connectivity Project was born at the Community Forums held in Dysart and Moranbah.

## How it came about

**Smart Transformation conducted Community Forums in both Dysart and Moranbah in its first phase. At these forums attended by local residents, business and community leaders, improving digital connectivity was identified as a foundational project for the transformation being pursued in the two towns.**

And the project was born.

Following the Community Forums, both the Smart Transformation Advisory Councils and the Youth Advisory Council made Improving Digital Connectivity the highest priority of all the Community Roadmap projects, given it was vital to the pursuit of other important initiatives across the three Roadmap themes of Community Wellbeing, Skills and Training and Business Development.

BHP and Telstra came on board along with GW3 and formed a local working group including the STAC Leads Brianna Baggow and Sandy Moffatt as well as Isaac Regional Council to look for solutions and to address the issue collaboratively.

Following the launch of the project, the first stage is design and site selection, and Telstra will be visiting Moranbah and Dysart in the coming weeks to identify locations and meet with community members.

As Brianna says: "The STACs are really proud to have played a role in bringing this project to life, and we look forward to keeping the community updated on progress."

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*We look forward to keeping the community updated on progress.* **//**

**BRIANNA BAGGOW - STAC LEAD**

# Bringing Ag and mining together for future opportunities

**Businesses in the resources and agricultural sectors are simultaneously adopting and implementing significant technological change – in an approach consistent with the objectives of Smart Transformation.**

The Smart Transformation Advisory Councils (STACs) have prioritised a project which aims to facilitate a strategic discussion between industry leaders and local representatives from both mining and agriculture, along with economic development practitioners, to investigate opportunities in their current and future businesses.

The first step, according to Smart Transformation facilitator Mitch Innes, is to bring the groups together.

"We are investigating local interest in participation in a Roundtable," Mitch said.

"The market of these two sectors may provide opportunities for existing and new businesses in Moranbah and Dysart which haven't yet been explored."

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**Those interested in participating in the Ag/Mining 4IR Roundtable are asked to email:**  
[smartransformation@outlook.com](mailto:smartransformation@outlook.com).

# New member for Dysart STAC

Maintenance Planner Brianna Jahnke is the newest member of Dysart's Smart Transformation Advisory Council.

Having moved to town in October last year, Brianna is now working for BHP having previously worked for the Rockhampton Regional Council and Aurizon.

"One of my key reasons for moving was to come out and be a part of a community, and give back to the community," Brianna said.

"Smart Transformation is one way of doing that, and I want to help the Dysart community identify and leverage opportunities, and ensure we have the skills, capability and services required to unlock the benefits for the town and our next generation."



Brianna Jahnke, STAC Dysart member

*“One of my key reasons for moving was to come out and be a part of a community, and give back to the community.”*



SMART  
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## Get involved in Smart Transformation

The Smart Transformation Project, now in its third phase, is a community initiative to shape our own future for ourselves. If you would like more information, please drop us a line at [smarttransformation@outlook.com](mailto:smarttransformation@outlook.com).

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