

THE TRANSFORMER

FEBRUARY 2022

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

Operating in Dysart and Moranbah, Smart Transformation 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.

Alliance to address local childcare

Addressing local childcare challenges will be the primary focus of a new Childcare Steering Group assembled by Smart Transformation.

A report into local childcare funded by BHP at the request of Smart Transformation's Advisory Councils identified a lack of staff as a key problem, along with training and development opportunities for sector workers according to Smart Transformation Project Lead Melissa Westcott.

"Additional recommendations were also included in the report, which have been reviewed and prioritised at two Roundtables held in Dysart and Moranbah with a combined attendance in excess of thirty participants," Melissa said.

"The report's recommendation to develop the Isaac Childcare Leadership Alliance was given top priority by Roundtable attendees, with the Alliance to oversee implementation of the recommendations."

Childcare sector representatives, Isaac Regional Council, resource companies and Smart Transformation Project Leads Liz Fox and Melissa Westcott make up the steering group which met in early February to progress the work.



Improving local childcare services requires more staff, with a recent study finding providers were not able to attract, recruit and retain the staff they need to operate their services at full capacity.

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Family affair for Youth Advisory Council

Moranbah sisters Lexi and Jenna Croce have been selected for Smart Transformation's Youth Advisory Council (YAC), as part of a new cohort of members in 2022.

Made up of two students from each year level 9 through 12 from both Dysart and Moranbah State High Schools, the YAC is designed to increase members' understanding of the future of work and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while also providing a youth voice to Smart Transformation and its projects and priorities.

For Lexi, who is going into Year 10, it will be her second year on the YAC and she is being joined by younger sister Jenna.

"The Fourth Industrial Revolution is here, we are living it right now, and people don't need to be worried about it because it opens a door to interesting opportunities," Lexi said.

"It's exciting to me that there will be jobs that don't even exist yet, and they will be created through technology."

"After seeing what we did last year in the YAC, I convinced my sister she would get to do something cool as well!"

There was a significant increase in nominations for the 2022 YAC which Dysart State High Principal Cherryl Perry said was not surprising given the success of the YAC to date.

"We had a huge response from students and parents, because it's a highly valued program and extremely user friendly," Cherryl said.

"The kids know they get a real voice, and they want to be part of it."

The 2022 YAC program will examine the implementation of new technologies in different industries, with the first meeting to be held in March.



Jenna Croce joins big sister Lexi on the 2022 Smart Transformation Youth Advisory Council.



Youth Advisory Council members attended the World Science Festival in 2021 as part of their program.

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CHERRYL PERRY - DYSART STATE HIGH PRINCIPAL

\$3.5m connectivity upgrade on track

The upgrade to digital connectivity in both Dysart and Moranbah is on track with site selection for new infrastructure underway.

The \$3.5m project – a collaboration between Smart Transformation and partners BHP, Telstra and the Greater Whitsunday Alliance (GW3) - will provide enhanced digital connectivity to support current and new businesses, schools and community groups.

GW3 Project Officer Vicki Smith said the project will support the ongoing pandemic recovery in both towns as well as enabling them to access opportunities stemming from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

“While GW3 is managing the project, the local working group including representatives from our major funders Telstra and BHP, along with Isaac Regional Council and Smart Transformation councilors is driving it,” Vicki said.

“This Digital Connectivity Project is showing how we can come together to solve our challenges and create opportunities for our future.”

The start of 2022 has again highlighted the importance of the project, according to STAC Lead Sandy Moffat.

“The Omicron wave has us all in virtual lockdown again, which has shown us the limitations of our existing network and the need for improvement,” Sandy said.

“This project is vital in ensuring the future of our towns and our communities in the digital age.”

Once sites have been finalised, and development applications processed with Isaac Regional Council, community consultation will begin.

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This project is vital in ensuring the future of our towns and our communities in the digital age. ■ ■ SANDY MOFFAT - STAC LEAD



GW3 Project Officer Vicki Smith.



The team on the ground in Dysart and Moranbah looking at proposed sites for upgraded infrastructure (from left) Peter Besch (BHP Mitsubishi Alliance), Brian Cassidy (Downer Group), Kim Buckett (Amplitel / Telstra) and Tonia Wilson (GW3).

Training program for Dysart community groups

Smart Transformation is building a new training program for Dysart's community groups to survive and thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

It follows local engagement involving more than 20 clubs and organisations which prioritised attracting volunteers and securing funding as key challenges are being faced.

The training program is being developed now, and when it's ready Dysart STAC members will be promoting the training including how to nominate.

The program is expected to get underway shortly, in person or virtually, and more information is available by contacting smarttransformation@outlook.com.

STAC Profile – Liz Fox

Liz Fox always sees opportunity, having spent time during the last two decades running florist shops, opening an Eagle Boys Pizza Shop, and working at different sites in the mining sector near her home in Dysart.

Outside of work, she has been equally busy over the last twenty years as the one-time treasurer of Dysart Swimming, involved in the original business group, the Hospital and Community Centre, and is currently serving as president of the Dysart Community Support Group.

And while there have been a lot of changes since she first arrived in town with her husband and young family, Liz said it is still the people of Dysart who make the town.

“It’s peaceful, people are friendly – there’s a real sense of community,” she said.

“When someone’s in trouble, the whole community pulls together to help them.”

Given her history in seeing an opportunity and taking it, it’s not surprising the future of Dysart through Liz’s eyes is also filled with possibilities.

“It could be an amazing hub for technology, for biofuel opportunities, for carbon capture and storage,” Liz said.

“We have options around IT education – there are so many possibilities that are before us.”

Liz has been a member of the Dysart Smart Transformation Advisory Council since its inception and is keen to see others involved in Smart Transformation and its objectives.

“We have to embrace new technologies and look at future proofing the town to see what industry needs – be it farming or mining – and deliver,” she said.

“We all just need to work together to make it happen.”

“*We have to embrace new technologies and look at future proofing the town to see what industry needs – be it farming or mining – and deliver.***”**

LIZ FOX - DYSART STAC MEMBER



Liz Fox.



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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.

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