

## **Community Futures Task Force Notes of Meeting 11 May 2009**

### **1. Chair's Report**

Extension of the Community Futures Task Force (CFTF)

- Minister Hinchliffe has extended the mandate of the Task Force Unit until 31 December 2009
- Observed that this was a sound decision based on feedback from the community
- Will consider dates for future meetings in the August to December period, when a decision on the dam is expected

*The Gympie Times* Articles

- Sort comment from the Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce and agencies on recent letters and articles in *The Gympie Times* about business conditions in the Mary Valley
- Noted that articles were balanced by comments from businesses in the Mary Valley  
Focus should remain on moving forward and educating businesses and banks

Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP) Kandanga Opening

- Thanked Mayor Dyne, Gympie Regional Council, for officiating at the opening  
Mayor Dyne

- Thanked CFTF for coordinating the QGAP service and organising the opening.  
Commented on success of Kilkivan QGAP office, hoping for the same success at Kandanga

Community Futures Fund (CFF)

- Has received an increase in applications in the last month. Considering a transfer of funds to the CFF
- Unspent money is quickly being committed. Closing date for applications is 30 June 2009

Wyaralong Dam visit

- Visit delayed due to wet weather. Possible future date of 21 May discussed. Confirm with Mayor Brent and QWI

Mary Valley visit

- Future visit on 2 June 2009

### **2. Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce Inc**

Mr Col Huddy, President, and Mr Mark Hickey, Vice President, presented to the Task Force and provided a handout on the Chamber's objectives and actions

Chamber's Charter

- No previous Chamber has existed in the Mary Valley. Group is affiliated with the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Will work in collaboration with other groups in the Mary Valley. However, the Chamber will have a 100 percent business focus
- Chamber is to be run as a business supporting its members
- 40 members at present and anticipate growth in membership
- Establishment of the Chamber is having a positive effect attracting businesses not previously engaged
- The Chamber is aiming to improve the viability and professionalism of Mary Valley businesses
- Information sessions provided to businesses by the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) are constructive

## Banking

- Businesses with a valid business case can get loans from banks
- Problem not as big as stated in the media
- Anecdotal evidence is that businesses being knocked back are those with little or no experience approaching banks for the first time during the financial crisis. This situation is not unique to Mary Valley businesses

## Queensland Water Infrastructure Pty Ltd (QWI)

- Asked that the Chamber's members be informed of the QWI database for dam workers and businesses. Large diversity of businesses required for construction
- Sought to meet with the Chamber to discuss the preferred practices of business suppliers to the dam, and the range of business opportunities that the dam could bring

## DEEDI

- Working with businesses on their capability statements
- Wealth of information and self help available to businesses through the departmental website and officers. This will be promoted to the Chamber's members

## 3. Mayors' Reports

### 3.1. **Gympie Regional Council (GRC)**

- Pleased to hear about the extension to the period of operations for the CFTF
  - Thanked CFTF for coordinating the QGAP opening in Kandanga
- #### Industrial Land Study
- Noted the study is still in draft form
  - Concern about the development of industrial land at Kybong
  - Main Roads requires four lanes on the Bruce Highway from Kybong to Gympie as a condition of development
  - Noted that while the draft study had identified other suitable industrial land, it did not have the same road access as Kybong
  - Council has requested a meeting with the Minister for Main Roads to discuss the issue
- #### DEEDI
- Confirmed that the report was still in draft form
  - Noted that opportunities for Gympie exist in the report

## 4. Agency Reports

### 4.1. **Queensland Water Infrastructure (QWI)**

#### Wyaralong Dam

- Tabled media statement regarding contractor announcement for construction of the dam
- Will create 420 jobs at peak employment
- Supplied contractor details for dam design and Boonah-Beaudesert Road realignment construction Realignment ready to commence
- Access road progressing well, third fleet of machinery to begin work shortly
- Local businesses are already participating in the project
- Observed that the project is attracting enquiries from recently displaced mining workers
- Construction of the dam should begin later in the year with mid-stream construction by April 2010, and construction completed by mid 2011

#### Cedar Grove and Bromelton Off-stream Storage

- Construction and commissioning completed. Handover to SEQ Water 30 June 2009
- Construction works from Bromelton Off-stream Storage to Wyaralong have commenced
- Business reports from the region are positive towards the dam
- Chief Executive Officer addressed a local Chamber of Commerce function – many local businesses are engaged with the project
- Will undertake to provide media articles on Wyaralong Dam to the CFTF

#### Traveston Crossing Dam

- In excess of 85 percent of properties required have been purchased
- Land transfer agreement reached between QWI and the Department of Transport and Main Roads on land required for the Bruce Highway upgrade
- Bruce Highway upgrade work is not contingent on dam announcement, only contingent on federal government roads funding

#### **4.2. Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)**

##### Traveston Crossing

- Coordinator-General's office is continuing to draft a report on the Traveston Crossing Dam. No change in timelines since report at last CFTF meeting

#### **4.3. Department of Communities**

- Last Regional Services Forum cancelled due to flooding at Kin Kin. Next meeting scheduled for 14 May 2009
- Kandanga One-Stop Shop had 35 contacts for March and April. (80 percent were community development and project related, 20 percent were referrals)
- Lifeline conducted 56 personal and financial counselling sessions in March 2009
- Case management work continues on the themes of housing, finance and employment
- Community organisations were assisted with seven (7) funding applications in March and April 2009
- Boonah received 20 contacts over the same period, all relating to employment

##### QWI

- Requested that referrals be directed to the QWI website so that details can be registered. Contractors for the project are being directed to use the website [www.wyarialongdam.com.au](http://www.wyarialongdam.com.au)

##### Chair

- Future of the Kandanga One-Stop Shop post 30 June will need to be determined with the Department of Communities as part of the extension of operations to December 2009

#### **4.4. Department of Communities (Sport and Recreation Services)**

- GRC is considering the report on the Imbil Multi-purpose Facility
- Sport and Recreation Services will consult with GRC after they have considered the report

#### **4.5. Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) (former Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry)**

##### Industrial Land Study

- Draft report is being considered by the Steering Committee at the moment
- Agency will be drafting a state wide industrial land use strategy

##### Gympie Regional Investment Study

- Has conducted tender process for the study. Steering Committee assessing tenders

##### Country Music Muster

- Has now secured a new major sponsor
- Has called a tender for the business model review

##### Workshops

- 28 May 2009 seminar (Gympie) – Current economic situation – invites have been sent out
- June (Imbil) – Dealing with banks

#### **4.6. Tourism Queensland**

- Promotions embedded in the *SEQ Country Touring Drive Magazine*
- Working on the detail of the Farm and Nature Based Tourism project with Southern Cross University
- A tourism officer will be based at Tourism Sunshine Coast  
Councillor Watt, Gympie Regional Council
- Concerned about lack of consultation with the Steering Committee on the draft Mary Valley Tourism Action Plan. Informed that the draft Action Plan is going to the Minister and then the Premier. The Steering Committee was provided with a very early version of the draft but no opportunity to comment. Both Government and Council recognise that some projects in the early draft had limited viability

#### **DEEDI**

- Advised that options involving the State that were considered unrealistic were removed. No options involving local consideration were removed

#### **4.7. Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) (former Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPIF))**

- Food and Fibre Futures Study:
  - Ginger industry development activities have been identified (information available on [www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au](http://www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au))
- A Building Rural Leaders Course commenced on the 3 April, in the Mary Valley 15 participants in the program
- Agricultural resource guide was tabled (available on [www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au](http://www.communityfutures.qld.gov.au))

#### **4.8. Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR)**

- Issues covered in QWI report

#### **4.9. Department of Education and Training (DET) (former Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA))**

- Gympie TAFE has invested \$250 000 towards training
- Recognition of prior learning certificates has commenced
- Interested to hear of business needs coming out of the Mary Valley

#### **5. Other Business**

- Mary Valley Inc tabled updated progress report  
Chair
- Invited Mary Valley Chamber of Commerce to provide update reports for future CFTF meetings  
MVCCI
- Offer accepted

#### **6. Next Meeting and Close**

- Next meeting 1 June 2009