

# *The Warren Blackwood Strategic Alliance (Inc)*

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## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008/2009 HELD ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2009 AT BOYUP BROOK SHIRE OFFICES**

The meeting began at 5.00pm

### **1. PRESENT**

Wade DeCampo, Louise Kingston, Brian Moore, Tony Goode, Jeremy Hubble, Tim Clynych, Shirley Broadhurst, Roger Downing, Barbara Dunnet.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Received from Don Punch, Paul Omodei, Brian O'Hare, Shane Collie, Alan Lamb.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 March 2009 had been circulated.

*Proposed Barbara Dunnet, Seconded Shirley Broadhurst,  
That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 March 2009, are approved.*

*Carried.*

### **4. ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Wade De Campo provided a brief report as follows:

This is my report on the performance of the Alliance for the period ending 30 June 2009 and I will therefore focus on our activities over that period. I will then conclude my report with some comments concerning the future of the Alliance.

I will begin with a retrospective acknowledgement of our position coming into the commencement of the 2008/2009 year. Our starting base was quite frankly, rather poor. Regional recognition of the Alliance was low, government recognition was virtually nil and the Alliance was unable to foster the sorts of outcomes that we were seeking to establish through our Strategic Plan. In essence and stated rather bluntly, we all accepted that we needed to challenge the rationale behind supporting the continuing operations of the Alliance. I can comfortably state that this has changed dramatically and I will note some of the outcomes that have been achieved in the past year that underscore this major change. In framing our future outlook it is really important to appreciate how far we have come to date and that is one of the main goals of this address. Firstly, let's review our achievements for the year -:

- We have actively engaged with the government on various regional issues and become one of the preminent regional bodies.

- A new internet web site has been built.
- We have reinvigorated our voice with governments by building a network amongst parliamentarians.
- We have also networked with key government departments and now register on their radar to an extent that we are contacted and sought out on various matters.
- Our media profile has lifted considerably with many articles being published in the local media and other publications such as Australian Forest and Timber News.
- Community recognition of the Alliance has increased greatly – the CEO’s participation at various forums such as LG Reform meetings, CEDA seminars, Council meetings, regional Chambers of Commerce, the regional Small Business Centre and so forth have all assisted in this regard.
- A significant strategic project, the Recreation Trails Project, has been identified and established in this period culminating recently with the appointment of a regionally funded Project Officer.
- Several grant funding submissions have been successful – for the Trails Project and for LG Reform.
- Other key regional projects have been identified and are being pursued – The Value Added Food Precinct and support for the Red Meat Action Group are examples.
- Royalties for Regions. The WBSA was the very first regional entity in the state to act on this opportunity as it presented. It was announced just before Christmas 2008 and we responded before the end of the year and we remain at the forefront on this matter.
- Timber industry. The Alliance has adopted a low key behind the scenes role in supporting this vital industry and whilst it may not have attracted acknowledgement, there is no doubt that we have been quietly effective in bringing certain arguments to the Minister.
- Biomass plant. Support for this new industry has been provided by the Alliance and I think it is fair to say that the manner in which the media has been engaged by the Alliance has been highly regarded.
- A new CEO has been recruited and is very well established in his role. There is no doubt that he is doing an excellent job and should be commended. In particular, he is opening doors and we are now in the position of being able to talk to virtually anyone regarding any of our regional issues.
- We have added our first Honorary Member, the distinguished Paul Omodei.
- The Alliance is actively engaged with other relevant entities including the SWDC, the emerging RDA – South West and the WB Small Business Centre.

- Member Councils have been able to use the Alliance to leverage a very large level of funding to investigate Local Government Reform and to “chaperone” the resultant consultancy Report. Our success in generating such a substantial grant for the LG Reform consultancy was quite amazing and testimony to the effectiveness of the Alliance.

In summary, not only have we actively undertaken our primary role of being the key regional advocacy group, but we have started to implement and drive strategic projects and by undertaking these activities, we are further establishing the credentials of the Alliance. We could all do more work to engage our Councils with the Alliance and to help them understand what we are about. The absolute net goal for the Alliance is to improve the Warren Blackwood region and in this regard, we can all say that the Alliance is starting to achieve this target.

### **Moving Forward**

Right now we need to regroup after having a few chinks in our armour exposed through the process of investigating Local Government Reform but I am confident that we can do this given the obvious benefits that the Alliance is generating. Unfortunately, a by-product of this process has been for neighbouring Councils to view one another in a somewhat divisive fashion and this has occasionally given rise to some negativity towards the Alliance. There has been a bit of “shooting the Messenger” stuff happening in the background recently and this should be put away in favour of a more constructive approach through using the Alliance beneficially.

Having established our credentials, we need to improve the marketing of the Alliance so that it is more widely perceived to be adding value by highlighting our positive advocacy role and by managing projects such as the Trails Project. In this regard it is vital that all Board members, not just our CEO, become more committed to promoting the virtues of the Alliance. At every opportunity we need to be promoting the region as a great place to live. We should do more to capitalise on our region being well placed to absorb our Nation’s growing population and to alleviate population pressures in the Metropolitan and Coastal areas.

Royalties for Regions. This funding represents both major challenges and opportunities and our ability to deal with these funds effectively on behalf of the region is certainly one of our Key Performance Indicators and something that I would like to see incorporated into our Strategic Plan. This brings me nicely to another matter immediately on the horizon, which is, to embark on reviewing the Plan.

We need to maintain our lobbying on key issues such as local government reform, improved transport links, regional economic development and so forth. We can capitalise on having a CEO who is now well established in his position. By that, I mean that we all have a role in assisting the CEO to become better acquainted with strategic matters throughout our region so that the most appropriate items are then brought forward for consideration by the Board. We have a CEO ready to provide assistance but we could do more in relation to inviting him to the table and improving his knowledge of what is happening around the region. In summation, the groundwork for an effective Alliance has been substantially prepared over the past year and we are better placed than we have ever been to make a really strong contribution towards improving the welfare of the Warren Blackwood.

## 5. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The audited financial statements of accounts for the year ended 30 June 2008 had been circulated.

*Proposed Barbara Dunnet, Seconded Margaret Bird*

*That the audited financial statements of accounts for the year ended 30 June 2008 are received.*

*Carried.*

## 6. BOARD MEMBERSHIP and OFFICE BEARERS.

The Chief Executive Officer took the Chair and declared all Elected and Executive positions open. Resignations and Nominated Board members and Office Bearers were tabled as per -:

Name	Status	Composition
<b>Resignations</b>		
Brian O'Hare	Member	Community Member – Boyup Brook
Margaret Bird	Member	Community Member - Nannup
Margaret Bird	Treasurer	Alliance Executive
Margaret Bird	Deputy Chair	Alliance Executive
Shirley Broadhurst	Member	Municipal Delegate – Boyup Brook
Tony Pratico	Member	Deputy Delegate Bridgetown-Greenbushes
<b>Appointments</b>		
Wade De Campo	Chairman	Alliance Executive
Barbara Dunnet	Deputy Chairman	Alliance Executive
Louise Kingston	Treasurer	Alliance Executive
Louise Kingston	Member	Community Delegate - Manjimup
Tony Pratico	Member	Community Delegate – Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Shirley Broadhurst	Member	Community Delegate – Boyup Brook
Roger Downing	Member	Municipal Delegate – Boyup Brook

*Proposed Louise Kingston, Seconded Wade De Campo*

*That all positions including Board Members and Office Bearers be appointed as tabled.*

*Carried.*

## 7. AUDITORS

The elected Chairman resumed the Chair.

*Proposed Barbara Dunnet, Seconded Shirley Broadhurst*

*That Hampton Partners Bridgetown be appointed as auditors for the year ending 30 June 2009.*

*Carried*

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.30pm