

The Warren Blackwood Strategic Alliance (Inc)

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DRAFT MINUTES – WBSA BOARD MEETING 3 FEBRUARY 2009 – BOYUP BROOK

- 1. Present:** Wade DeCampo (Chairman), Margaret Bird, Shane Collie, Tony Goode, Barbara Dunnet, Jeremy Hubble, Louise Kingston, Brian Moore, Tim Clynch, Shirley Broadhurst, Brian O’Hare, Roger Downing, Deanna Guimelli (SWDC), Don Punch (SWDC) Terry Redman (Guest Speaker – Local State Member of Parliament & Minister), Steve Thomas (Guest - Terry Redman’s Principal Policy Officer), Mike Introvigne (Guest Speaker – Red Meat Action Group)
- 2. Apologies:** Nil
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:** That the minutes of the meeting on 2nd December 2008 held in Nannup are accepted as a correct record.

Moved – Barbara Dunnet Seconded – Brian Moore Carried

Business Arising From Previous Minutes: **1.** The EO was asked to make contact with the relevant Federal Member (currently Wilson Tuckey). This was undertaken and the Federal Member’s office have been made fully aware of the Alliance and the inclusion of our shires in his electorate. **2.** The WBSA apply for funding for completion of the Munda Biddi Project through to Albany. The exercise was commenced and then aborted due to various factors outlined in an email to members. **3.** Weekly hours for the Executive Officer are increased to 25 hours, subject to a review by 30 June 2009. This has been implemented. **4.** The EO recently attended a CEDA seminar (brief report to be circulated to members). A note issued to all members. **5.** The WBSA writes to the Minister expressing its concerns and disappointment that the new SSS Steering Committee does not include any elected persons, including members of the Alliance. A letter was sent and the Minister responded – essentially declining our request to bolster the Committee with councillor representation.

- 4. Correspondence (as circulated):** That the Correspondence in was noted and the Correspondence out was approved.

Moved - Margaret Bird Seconded – Shirley Broadhurst Carried

5. **Guest Speaker – Terry Redman (Local MLA and Minister):** Terry summarised state government activities focussing on the impending launch of the expanded funding program for Development Commissions (including contestable funds), the evaluation process for the 3% Public Sector cut and the positive impacts of Royalties for Regions funding directed to shire councils.

An interesting question and answer session followed on covering a broad range of matters including; Wade making the point that Royalties for Regions funding needed to have inbuilt flexibility to ensure that monies could be expended in the best way on the best projects. Barbara expressed frustrations regarding overregulation with Terry asking for specific details to be provided where situations consistently occurred. Louise raised the looming impacts of the ETS and also made mention of the ongoing difficulties in relation to Priority Ag and tree plantations. In response to a question on the Biomass Project post EPA Report, the Minister said that it was now in the hands of the Environment Minister. The Greenbushes railway and Intermodal Facility was discussed. Terry advised that there was a commitment of \$20 million made and the matter was still on the agenda with further investigations to consider. He also noted that operation of the railway would require a subsidy of about \$1 million per annum. Tim would like to see more pressure put on the DEC for weed control as it appeared that very little was being done on DEC land. This has worsened since the disbanding of the APB (along with other problems such as feral pigs). Problems with DEC concerning clearing regs and practical ramifications following the recent Bridgetown fire and the storm in the Manjimup shire were raised. The WBSA stressed the need for a more common sense application to the regulatory environment.

Water resources – plans remain for further research in Yarragadee. Terry is trying to push things along in relation to water licensing/allocations and is very conscious of the issues. The Water Minister, Graham Jacobs, is working on producing a blueprint for Water Reform and Terry wants to ensure that the agricultural industry has adequate input. GM Crops – Trials for the 2009/2010 season were now approved and will cover 1000 ha mainly in the Yilgarn district. Terry's focus will be on providing a stewardship program to monitor the trials. He wants to make sure that grain handling systems can accommodate GM grains.

Headworks – Terry has met with Peter Collier, Minister for Energy, and believes that he is sympathetic to the problem and is therefore hopeful of a positive outcome. Munda Biddi – the decision to drop off projects for funding via Cabinet submissions means that a fresh submission will need to be made. This will be developed by the DEC. The timber industry – Terry will be making announcements shortly.

6. **Guest Speaker – Mike Introvigne (Red Meat Action Group):** Mike outlined a brief history leading to the formation of the Red Meat Action Group, explaining that traditional broader agricultural groups such as the PGA and the WAFF were not necessarily representative of their particular industry. The Group had held many meetings with various stakeholders including Richard Goyder from

Wesfarmers, Coles Stores, the Australia China Business Council and Minister Terry Redman. Mike provided a more optimistic longer term future for the industry citing key personnel and structural changes at Harvey Beef, Brazil being a net beef importer, low U.S cattle numbers and world demand trending upwards.

However, in Western Australia we were being held back by aging infrastructure, a lack of quality facilities and urban encroachment into existing facilities (such as Dardanup Butchering Co and Walshes). The Red Meat Action Group sees a strong need to build a whole of industry centralised facility and to that end they are currently investigating sites.

7. Discussion/Status of Other Key Regional Identified/Possible Issues inc:

- The role and current operating climate of DEC
- Biomass Plant
- Royalties for Regions
- Recreation Trails Project
- Other Issues

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the Special Board Meeting to be held on March 3rd in Manjimup.

8. Executive Officers Work Report: The EO's Work Report was tabled, Tony noting the establishment of a new WBSA website.

9. Finance Report

Moved – Louise Kingston Seconded – Barbara Dunnet Carried

10. Future Meetings Schedule: A schedule for the next 2 years was tabled retaining our existing rotation and 2 monthly cycle.

11. General Business: Don Punch talked about the SWDC gearing up for Royalties for Regions, noting the positive implications of the emphasis on local decision making. The SWDC were also working with the Department of Water on topical water issues. There was a brief general discussion on Royalties for Regions including the need for clarification of the Alliance as a ROC (Region of Councils). It was agreed that each shire should consider their view (as per shire of Manjimup) and follow up the Alliance letter with a letter to the Local Government Minister stating their position. Brian Moore advised the meeting of his appointment to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. The EO advised that the Alliance AGM was overdue and it was agreed to hold the AGM on March 3rd in Manjimup, to be followed by a Special Board meeting.

Motion: **That the AGM for the 2007/2008 year be held on March 3 2009, to be followed immediately by a Special Board Meeting.**

Moved – Barbara Dunnet Seconded – Louise Kingston Carried

12. Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th April 2009 at Bridgetown. Meeting closed at 7:45pm