

RAPAD RENEWABLE ENERGY FORUM **MEETING SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS**

Forum Summarv

On February 5th 2018 a forum, led by Professor Ross Garnaut AO, renowned economist and renewable energy expert, saw a small number of leading renewable energy companies, some of whom are currently investing in our region, potential investors, Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and Queensland Government representatives including Hon Anthony Lynham Minister Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, come together to discuss how to further RAPAD's renewable energy vision.

RAPAD's Renewable Energy Vision: For our region to generate Queensland's electricity needs from renewable energy, in turn facilitating transformative economic and social benefit for our region, while becoming an energy superpower of the low carbon world.

The forum aimed to achieve the following outcomes:

- 1. Gain endorsement from invitees that RAPAD's vision can be achieved:
- 2. Collect ideas from attendees for how RAPAD can achieve its vision;
- 3. Determine who amongst the participants could offer support for the vision going
- 4. Outline the next steps needed so RAPAD and partners can achieve its vision.

Did the forum achieve its outcomes?

Outcome 1: Gain endorsement from invitees RAPAD's vision can be achieved. Achieved. Consensus amongst all forum attendees confirmed RAPAD's vision can be achieved and any strategic problems are outweighed by the massive potential.

During the forum attendees discussed:

- What they believe makes the RAPAD vision practical:
- What are the possible strategic problems RAPAD may face in getting their vision into action?; and
- Do these outweigh the massive potential RAPAD believes exist?

Discussions focused on:

- RAPAD has a strength in its organisation and great runs on the board;
- Enormous resource in the region;
- Unity of purpose and unity in the group;
- Board is taking a pragmatic approach to long term economic development in the region, delving into what the practicalities are here today; and
- There is a genuine opportunity to create overcapacity of energy, create demand, create jobs, create transformative change.



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Outcome 2: Collect ideas from attendees for how RAPAD can achieve its vision **Achieved.** All attendees provided ideas for how RAPAD can achieve its vision identifying key themes including:

- Undertaking a project plan (scoping study and business case);
- Energy intensive industries to focus on;
- RAPAD's role;
- Assessing value add;
- Investment gaps;
- Mapping the regional resources; and
- CSO and role of Government.

Discussions focused on:

- Build out vision to next phase in the form of a project plan (scoping study and business case);
- Identify opportunities for energy produced quantify the potential energy that can be created, export to grid, use to create local business and industry then identify partner/s;
- Energy intensive industries to focus on, on the back of low cost electricity/energy

 lowest hanging fruit, capitalising on industries already there, vertically
 integrating them as much as you can; manufacturing industries eg poly tanks;
 chemical extraction/processing industries e.g hydrogen, fertiliser manufacture;
 solid fuel opportunities e.g. sync gas; intensive horticulture; mineral processing
 through to metal production;
- What external trends (megatrends) can create new industry opportunities;
- Address infrastructure limitations to build investor confidence;
- Collect knowledge of resource base through the region solar, wind, geothermal, artesian hot water etc;
- Include in the project plan information to provide to the Minister which validates capitalising on the CSO resulting in long term budget relief for the Government ie to prepay CSO for 10 years to fund construction costs for renewables in the region.

Outcome 3: Determine who amongst the participants could offer support for the vision going forward;

Achieved. All attendees identified how they could offer support for the vision going forward, options for their involvement with RAPAD for the next 12 months included:

- Contribute some time to a RAPAD advisory group;
- Offer comment from my technical experience when requested;
- I'd consider investing financially in the next steps of the development;
- I know of, or have access to, grants for projects such as this;
- Assist in introducing RAPAD and the development to other players;
- Commit some time of one of your staff; and
- Provide the contact details of a staff member better able to assist than myself.

Many attendees ticked multiple options with all committing to offering support for the project in some capacity over the coming 12 months.

Outcome 4: Outline of next steps needed so RAPAD and partners can achieve its vision.

Achieved. All attendees participated in outlining the next steps needed so RAPAD and partners can achieve its vision. Attendees identified the following next steps to tackle first:

- Undertake project planning (scoping study and business case) to take this vision to execution;
- Establish an advisory group;
- Be mindful there is a sunset on this opportunity another council could step into this space, quick action needed to take advantage of this opportunity in 2-3 years this opportunity has passed;
- Ensure development includes both value added industries and industry development not only adding power into the grid; and
- RAPAD to lead and facilitate a renewable energy boom for the region.

Next Steps

RAPAD will:

- Establish an advisory group with partners;
- Develop with partners a Terms of Reference to undertake a project plan (scoping study and business case) to take this vision to execution;
- Seek funding from partners for the project plan; and
- Aim to have project plan completed by June 2018.



(I-r) Prof Ross Garnaut AO, Cr Geoff Morton Mayor of Diamantina Shire, Hon Anthony Lynham Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Cr Rob Chandler RAPAD Chair and Mayor Barcaldine Regional Council, Cr Ed Warren Mayor Longreach Regional Council.



RAPAD Renewable Energy Forum Attendees



President Zen Energy, renowned economist and renewable energy **Prof Ross Garnaut**

expert

Mark Scholem mark.scholem@libertyonesteel.com Business Development Manager, GFG

Alliance

David Mailer david@meralliprojects.com.au Director/Partner, Meralli Projects, Solar

construction business, recently built an 11.9MW solar farm in Barcaldine

Trevor Powell trevor.powell@impacts.com Founder/CEO of Impacts, an award winning

renewable energy specialist

Andrew Northcott anorthcott@austpec.com.au Founder/CEO Austpec Holdings, private

investment company focused on Energy, Technology, Agriculture & Real

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Tim McGavin &

Bloomer

Adam tim.mcgavin@lagunabaypastoral.com adam.bloomer@lgi.com.au Tim is CEO Laguna Bay & Seed Investor/Director of LGI, a renewable energy

and carbon offset company. Adam is MD of LGI.

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Stan Barrett stan.barrett@brmgroup.com.au Director, BRM Group, specialises in the

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