

July 19th, 2022

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – July 2022**

We are into a new financial year, and I expect many of you are under pressure with higher wages, extra superannuation, and increased higher costs for energy, freight and now council rates. The removal of the \$450 threshold is one that has "crept up" on some our members. Two important ATO dates this month - 21/7 BAS is due and 28/7 pay super guarantee contributions for Q4.

Once again, we are in the grip of COVID. It is having a major impact on most small businesses as staff are lost for a week on each occasion. Accordingly, we have decided to scale back on many face to face activities until the current wave subsides.

We had to cancel our planned breakfast for early July as our event team were either infected or affected by COVID. We will not be holding our planned breakfast this week and will recommence in September (hopefully) after our normal mid-year break. Likewise, our 7BU broadcasts didn't happen as I had COVID and now Leigh Kenworthy has it – get well soon Leigh!

I will be holding our July General Meeting at the RSL Club at 6pm this Wednesday 20/07 and hope you are able to join us. The meeting will be held in the larger Cameron Baird VC MG room rather than the Board Room to allow for better COVID spacing. If you can attend that will be great but I understand that some may prefer to be COVID safe and stay warm at home.

The recent news of the potential establishment of an eFuel production facility just south of Burnie by HIF Asia Pacific is great news for our region. Planned to open in 2026 the \$1B plant will produce up to 100 million litres per year over forty years. eFuel can be used in traditional car engines and this volume will reduce emissions by 260,00 tonnes per year. It is a very positive endorsement of Tasmania's renewable energy status and hopefully will alert other international companies to the benefits of establishing facilities here.

The parent company HIF Global is establishing plants in Chile, Germany and the US with major shareholders including Siemens and Porsche plus several large energy distribution and manufacturing partners.

In late June I was fortunate to be able to attend the Tasmanian Energy Development Conference in Devonport. There was a plethora of presentations from companies and GBEs on current and future projects in the renewable energy (RE) sector. It was exciting to hear of so many large-scale projects proposed over the next 5-10years. Much hinges on the Marinus Project being approved next year. At a cost of \$3.7B Marinus doesn't seem a lot when we look at the planned expenditure of other projects like Robbins Island, Whaleback Ridge, Battery of the Nation and hydrogen projects at Bell Bay and Burnie. I feel this should be approached similar to Highway 1 as it will benefit almost all of Australia, and I hope logic prevails.

There is a heavy focus on projects within the RE zone that covers north west Tasmania meaning there will be thousands of jobs in construction and operation of these facilities. Unfortunately, with an aging workforce we are facing a major shortage in labour resource which when coupled with our limited housing situation means a lot of FIFO workers will be required, which unfortunately doesn't build community and costs more than using local workers.

Our AGM is August 16<sup>th</sup> and I urge you to consider if you or one of your colleagues would like to join our Executive team to help guide us through the next year. Nomination forms will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. In the last two years too much has been done by too few – we need more support from the membership to continue the momentum we have developed.

If you cannot join us for the General Meeting feel free to submit any questions or initiatives you have directly to me via email.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

PLATINUM SPONSORS:



GOLD SPONSORS:



SILVER SPONSORS:



BRONZE SPONSORS:

