

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

We are hurtling towards the Christmas break – someone once said Australia goes into holiday mode from Cup Day to Australia Day



I attended the All-Energy conference in Melbourne recently and was amazed at the plans for the roll-out of renewable energy (RE) around the nation. The conference had 15,000 people register for the two-day event – 375 exhibitors and 200 break-out sessions. A common theme was the need for faster deployment of new transmission networks.

On my return I was advised by the COE of TasNetworks that due to the changes of plan for Marinus 2 the new transmission line in our region would be delayed. This places several major projects at risk; Acen's Robbins Island windfarm, Ark Energy's two windfarms around Hellyer and The HIF Global eco-fuel factory. TCCI, Burnie Council and ourselves have been very active in advocacy to all levels of government and will continue to push hard until we can get a satisfactory answer. So far we have agreement from the government that they will connect where required but we don't have a When.



Breakfast numbers have declined in recent months – maybe an indicator of a tighter economy and people need to work longer hours to have success. I urge members to attend as these events are good for networking with other local businesses plus you may learn a few things that can improve your business.

Simon Overland gave a good presentation on [Making a Better Burnie 2044](#) and last week we had a presentation from James Ryan of Lifeline on [Minding Your Business](#). Lifeline are providing free courses to help business owners cope with the extra stress that is being experienced by many during these tougher trading times.

We have two breakfasts to round out the year. November 22 – Paul Sturzaker of Forico – Paul will present us with an overview of Forico as an organisation and what a market risk diversified Forico may look like in the future of the North West Coast. December 6<sup>th</sup> Sonya Stafford of UTAS – the recently appointed Vice Chancellor of the Cradle Coast campus will speak of Developing a *New Strategic Agenda for UTAS on the Cradle Coast*.



Another great event this month is *Lunch with Premier Jeremy Rockliff* on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Beach Hotel. Space is limited so get in early and book your [ticket here](#). Members \$35/guests \$45.

The first cruise ship of this season arrives tomorrow, the Noordam has over 1900 passengers, many of whom will be around the streets – please make them welcome and render assistance if they look a little lost.



COVID is raising its head again and there are lockdown procedures in place at the Burnie hospital. Statewide last week there were 898 new cases declared. As COVID is relatively mild now I suspect that this figure is about half of the true figure as people don't bother to report it now. Be prepared for staff shortages if this number increases. We will continue to monitor and advise on the numbers via Facebook on a weekly basis.



Did you know there is a fifth jab available? Consult your GP to see if you need it.



Last week's Optus fiasco caused great difficulty for many small businesses – mostly in EFTPOS services. The fault was caused by a fault in a software upgrade of a connected international network, but end users don't care where or what caused the problem. Small businesses need to recognise that disasters can occur and develop strategies to mitigate the risk. It is not that expensive to have a Square reader and a cheap phone with the SIM card of another telco that can be enacted quickly. It is better than closing the doors for a day. Business Tasmania has an [Emergency Preparation Toolkit](#) – this is well worth a look. Members can also contact us as we can often help in these situations. The terrible "compensation offer" of 200Mb of data has further damaged the company's reputation.

On a brighter note.....our next General Meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club and I hope you can join us.

Best regards



**Ian Jones** – President

<b>PLATINUM SPONSORS:</b>			
<b>GOLD SPONSORS:</b>			
			
<b>SILVER SPONSORS:</b>			
			
<b>BRONZE SPONSORS:</b>			
			