

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 18th March 2024

Only a few days remaining until our state election. It promises to be a close election and it could be weeks until “the dust settles” with the minority government most experts are predicting. Lots of promises being thrown around; with Burnie being guaranteed of receiving funds to commence the CBD revitalisation we have been advocating for over several years.

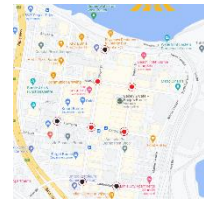


Cyndia Hilliger and I represent BNW on the CBD Reference Group which has been in existence for 18 months and recently we had a briefing from the appointed consultants, GHD on the proposed plans. It was an impressive session and will certainly make our CBD a better place to live and visit for locals and visitors alike.

GHD will be progressing the *Burnie City Centre Urban Plan* and seeking public consultation from late May to early June.

Our last breakfast networking session featured Council GM Simon Overland speaking on the Burnie Settlement Strategy.

He referred to the [Discussion Paper](#) as a good source of information and asked us all to complete the [short survey](#) to inform Council on your thoughts about how our city should develop over the next 20 years. The survey closes April 3rd.



Our next breakfast networking session is April 3rd and features former Ironman champion Guy Leech presenting details of the *Heart180* program. In 2016 Guy lost a close friend to Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) during a training session and this inspired him to promote the program to have a defibrillator unit within 180 seconds of any SCA victim.

This will increase survival from around 6% to 70%. We will be partnering with Somerset Rotary to promote this scheme to local businesses. [Get a ticket](#) and come along to hear how you can participate.

Earlier this month the government announced that the Whaleback Ridge renewable energy project had been granted Major Project status and be assessed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. This project when fully completed will be a massive boost to our economy, it will support jobs in regional Tasmania, and it will help unlock our renewable energy potential. Combining this project with the *Marinus* link will provide huge energy export opportunities for decades to come.



Whilst on renewable energy, Premier Rockliff and Minister Duigan announced that the Liberal Party will declare parts of the NW region as the first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) if they are re-elected. This helps to unlock transmission access which is vital for projects such as Whaleback, Robbins, Ark and HIF Global in our region.

Last week HIF Global executives visited Burnie with representatives of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to evaluate the proposed Hampshire site and other relevant localities and partners as a component of the \$2B Hydrogen Headstart program that HIF is a final candidate for. This scheme provides subsidised pricing and will help bridge the commercial gap for first mover projects to ensure their success.

This month's general meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday March 20th at 6pm in the Burnie RSL Club - I hope you can join us and perhaps share a meal afterwards.

Best regards



Ian Jones – President

PLATINUM MEMBERS					
GOLD MEMBERS:					
SILVER MEMBERS:					
BRONZE MEMBERS:					