**Minutes**

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| Date: 30th August 2011 | Start Time: 2.30pm |
| Venue: Caboolture State High School | Chair Person: T. McCue |
| Attendees: David Murphy, Kris McCue, Ros Cole, Sophie Head, David Liddy, Brian Proctor, Jim Box, George Goves, Matthew Ten Kate, Kevin O’Sullivan, Joe Bucher, Joe Proctor, Brian Smith, Tom McCue. | |
| Apologies: J.Amos. G. Nowell | |
| Minute Taker: | |

**Business & Industry Key Advisory Group Meeting 30th August 2011. 2.30pm**

**MINUTES**

QYIL partnership broker introduced speakers to address the meeting, the newly appointed DEEWR representatives for:

Regional Education, Skills & Jobs Coordinator, Moreton & Ipswich areas. (DEEWR) **David Murphy,**

Local Employment Coordinator, Moreton and Sunshine Coast Region. (DEEWR) **Kris McCue,**

**Synopsis of David’s comments:**

* Current parliament involves a agreement between the government and regional independents, this including further strengthening the government’s commitment to delivering outcomes for regional Australians this including how programs and initiatives can be delivered to meet the needs of regional areas.
* Has a large geographical area to cover and is developing an Education, jobs and skills plan for each of the two regions (Ipswich and West Moreton / Moreton Bay), or more if required (more relevant to Ipswich and West Moreton.
* Works with RDA to link ESJ plans to identified community priorities identified in the Regional Roadmap, for Moreton Bay region these being closely aligned to MBRC priorities
* The planning process is to be dynamic and include immediate activity (through progressing projects/initiatives that are community driven and that link to DEEWR policy objectives) and will include identifying skills needs for strategic projects in the pipeline.
* Considerable DEEWR investment in the region – is there capacity to improve outcomes and connections across services. Also role will identify social inclusion indicators and consider opportunities to improve inclusion, considering early childhood uptake, year 12 completion rates, VET and Higher Education participation and employment.

**Synopsis of Kris’ comments:**

* Has a more regional focus around skills, workforce development and employment.
* Works with Councils in Moreton & Sunshine Coast as well as DEEDI
* Looks to leverage off existing opportunities and maximize government opportunities
* Has a regional employment plan
* The role is operational rather than strategic in intent. (Around skills & Employment)
* The role is to take a strategic view of employment, skills and workforce development across the region with the objective of achieving tangible outcomes
* Is here to add value to the whole process across sectors as it needs wrap around support.

Discussion, questions & Answer session followed.

**Q.** How do we maximize jobs in our region and is there an opportunity to influence it at our level within the region? (D. Liddy, Redcliffe Hospital)

**A.** The effect of the Mining Industry incursion into the coastal workforces has potential for the coast in the coming years – good and bad. The immediate possibilities for jobs and how to better target the workforce into the jobs, and what are we doing for the students in year 11 now, who will be the jobseekers within the next two years? (Kris)

There is a project team, the Moreton Bay Rail link Project Team who will deliver the timing for the release of new jobs associated with the development of the rail link. How do we map this release and uptake timing issue of the new jobs? (S. Head, MBRC)

QYIL offered some assistance with the mapping, and David Liddy indicated an interest in taking a leading role within the process.

What is the ‘Plan sequence’ and how do we find the ‘holder of the knowledge’?

The challenge is the oversupply of over qualified people for the existing jobs and the ensuing difficulty in employing young people following the completion of their training. The VET reform agenda is moving to a ‘demand’ arrangement and often becomes training for training’s sake for young people (a qualification of convenience to the RTO, school or other training body) and VET should be delivered on the basis of skill needs within and with proximity to the region. The question might be around how regional VET providers respond to the regional needs. (D. Liddy)

VET articulation needs to reflect regional skill needs. (Kris)

National trade cadetships have been announced recently but not enough detail is known currently. (J. Proctor)

The PPP program tends to fail the system requirements as JSA’s get paid anyway and don’t necessarily provide the right people to the employer for the position advertised. JSA’a get prospective employees excites and then they are let down because of their poor literacy and numeracy skill levels.

The quality of JSA’s and RTO’s do vary however. Also, there are existing jobs, but long term unemployed don’t want to work. The education needs to happen in the schools and gets back to the discussion around employability skills. (M. Ten Kate Major Training)

Things in schools have changed over time and students don’t always match ability with expectations. Schools struggle to combat intergenerational unemployment. Big industry has the resources but many of the smaller regional industries are not presently enjoying much success developmentally. (B. Proctor, Morayfield SHS)

Schools are not training organisations and can’t do the job of industry, or for industry. This is why the links are needed to make improvements across these areas. Schools need to know how we can make it easier for kids to link with what is there; how can they articulate with community opportunities? (J. Box Caboolture SHS)

**Points from general discussion: (unattributed comments)**

* The focus is to leverage what is already there.
* Schools need a person to get out of the school and attract the employers otherwise, no pathways are established.
* Industry doesn’t want to pay for school liaison generally. The big employers in the region need to have ‘some skin in the game’.
* Employers can be difficult to engage with, especially SME who do not have an overabundance of staff or time .

Is a possibility a website for local apprentices/businesses to link jobs, training and employment? Maybe a discussion board for projects to gain community involvement? (M.Ten Kate)

Moreton Regional Council is holding discussions with a private organisation to provide a regional jobs site at the moment. (S. Head)

Is the TAFE website a possibility as a portal, as they might have the most to gain by hosting such a website for Moreton training and job seekers? (T. McCue QYIL)

One of the issues with the SEEK portal is that it does not recognize the Moreton Bay region as a region a separate to Brisbane north. This creates difficulties in locating specific Moreton jobs. (Courtesy, Andrew Quain, Moreton Bay RDA)

The government jobs website ‘Jobsearch au’ is a very good national website, it just has a lower profile than SEEK. (K. O’Sullivan DEEWR)

This meeting would benefit from the attendance of some regional employers, as it is seeking greater input from small business. (M. Ten Kate)

David & Kris can contribute to the bringing small business to the table. This may take a little time.

The overarching thrust of the meeting was that school business and industry need to work together to provide strong and enduring school industry business links and should work together to get projects going and to focus on what is already there.

**Action arising.**

* QYIL has offered limited admin support to map areas of relevance outlined by the group.
* Kris agreed to further meetings with QYIL and other stakeholders to identify immediate opportunities as well as other players in business and industry who could contribute to the establishment of school industry links. These stakeholders will be invited to future meetings to discuss possible links and other synergies around the three sectors combining to produce regional outcomes for youth in transition and jobseekers within the region.
* Meeting closed: 5.10pm.

T. McCue. QYIL

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