

Magnetic Island Community Energy Working Group (MICEWG) @ 19th April 2022

The MICEWG is a volunteer group with the following members:

- Greg Bruce – Townsville City Council
- Dylan Furnell – Townsville City Council
- Gethin Morgan – MINCA
- Joe Niven – MINCA
- Les Sampson – MICDA
- Rob Dorgelo - MICDA
- Meredyth Woodward – Community#
- Mary Anne Anderson – Community#
- Blake Carney – Community#
- Kate Austin – Community Engagement Ergon*
- Julie Heath – Community Engagement Ergon*
- Richard McArthur – Peppers*
- Justin Bridgman – Power and Light*
- Tania Thoreau – MICDA*

*Resigned or reduced involvement due to work commitments, etc.

Joined in April 2022

An overview

MICEWG have met more than 15 times (about every 2 or 3 weeks), usually by Zoom. Our objective is ensuring Magnetic Island has reliable, resilient, renewable, and sustainable energy. We firstly considered work previously undertaken:

- Solar Cities Project (2008 – 2012)
- Ergon’s Workshop (November 2020)
- Decarbonisation of the barrier reef (December 2020)

We considered and discussed the following:

- The expected replacement of one of the two undersea transmission lines (not expected for 10+ years)
- Potential supply constraints at peak demand periods (not currently being experienced)
- The overall demand curve throughout the year, and through a typical day
- Electric vehicles and green transport (buses, bikes, scooters, rentals, and ferries)
- Solar panels and hot water
- Battery storage
- Hydrogen
- Building design, standards and approvals

For more information visit the MICDA Group Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/266572694260363>

- Potential funding sources:
 - ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency)
 - Resilience Risk Reduction Fund
 - Renewable Energy Zones
 - Smarty Grant Program
 - Hydrogen Hubs
- Community communications
 - ARENA funding of a predominantly solar microgrid, (similar to Lord Howe Island).

What did we do?

- By August 2021, we decided to concentrate on the following topics:
 - Solar
 - Microgrids
 - Hydrogen
 - Community communications / energy efficiency
 - Sustainable development (including retrofit)
- Presentations included:
 - Energy on Magnetic Island (August 2021)
 - Microgrids and ARENA (September 2021)
 - Solar (October and November 2021)
 - Process for Community Engagement (October 2021)
 - Adaptable Renewable Energy / Hydrogen (October 2021)
 - Energy Trends (December 2021)
- The group then concentrated on assisting Townsville City Council in organising a workshop to be held on Magnetic Island on 27th and 28th of March 2022.

Workshop on 27th and 28th March 2022

- Attended by approximately 45 people from all the Island's major community groups, Ergon, Queensland University of Technology, energy related businesses, financiers, and others
- On the morning of the 27th, Greg Bruce (TCC Chief Sustainability Officer) led the group through a four-part process:
 - Vision ("What should be")
 - Constraints and enablers for that vision ("What is")
 - Ideas and projects ("What could be")
 - Actions ("What can be")

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- In the afternoon, the group car-pooled and visited various important pieces of infrastructure on the Island (e.g., Horseshoe Bay Solar Skate Park etc.)
- On the morning of the 28th Joe Niven (Chair MICEWG) presented on the status of energy on the island, including solar, and Simon Shaw (MD Hydrogen Collective), presented on the analytical process used to evaluate energy transformation projects
- At a subsequent meeting, the outputs of the four-part process were analysed and tested against the five topics above
- The primary areas of interest at the workshop were solar, storage, microgrids and energy efficiency. Many other areas of interest were also discussed.
- Based on that output, the MICEWG proposed to concentrate on those primary areas
- Coincidentally, this continues from some of the work already undertaken
- And is consistent with MICEWG's objective of ensuring Magnetic Island has reliable, resilient, renewable and sustainable energy
- MICEWG plans to work with all the Island community and stakeholders to achieve this objective

If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact the Coordinator: Joe Niven – joseph.niven@gmail.com



MAGNETIC ISLAND
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION

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