

Draft Minutes

ENVA-CQ Committee Meeting

When: 5.30pm, Tuesday 15 October 2024

Where: ZOOM

Welcome: James welcomed everyone and acknowledged that Coral and James were on Darumbal land, Tom called in from Wiradjuri Country, and Christine called in from Yuggera and Turrbal Country. Maggie was not in attendance at the beginning of the meeting

Attendance: Coral Rowston, James York, Maggie Inglis, Christine Carlisle, Tom Sjolund

Endorsement of previous EnvA management committee meeting

Motion: That the decisions made at the meeting held on 24 September 2024 be accepted.

Proposed by: Coral Rowston

Seconded by: Tom Sjolund

Carried.

Actions arising from the minutes

- Coral to investigate whether a committee member can also be a staff member, if a paid 'appointed' Secretary is appropriate, or alternatively, if a paid staff member is required to be exclusive of the management committee. **Completed – there are no restrictions in relation to a staff member being on the management committee identified in our Constitution, and there is no constraint in paying for secretarial services.-**
- Coral to submit a funding application to secure a part-time employee to coordinate EnvA's campaign activities and engage accounting services for one year. **Completed – a grant acceptance has been signed and \$50,000 has been received.**

Treasurers report and financial matters

The August-September 2024 finances reports were sent to committee members prior to the meeting.

Motion: That the August-September 2024 finance reports be accepted as an accurate record of EnvA's finances.

Moved: Coral Rowston

Seconded: Christine Carlisle

Carried.

Motion: That Matilda is removed as a signatory to EnvA's bank accounts given she is no longer directly involved with EnvA's operations.

Moved: Coral Rowston

Seconded: Tom Sjolund

Carried.

Coral asked the committee 's views on applying for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status as a tool to attract additional funding needed to continue our legal campaigns. This will mean that we will have to provide receipts for donations and end of year charity reports will require additional steps (but not too onerous).

Motion: That EnvA's E-saver account be renamed to Donation Fund, and that EnvA applies for DGR status

Moved: Christine Carlisle

Seconded: Coral Rowston

Carried.

Action: Coral to commence the application process for EnvA to secure DGR status.

New member requests

- Nil

Discussion Items

1. Update on Kestrel West – government funding to an expanding coal mine

EnvA requested a statement of reasons for government funding to Kestrel West from the Powering the Regions fund given that new and expanding coal mines were specifically excluded from accessing the fund. The response was less than convincing as the conclusion was that expanding coal mines were only mines increasing their annual production rate and no mines expanding in area and life of mine.

EnvA also wrote to the Climate Change Authority outlining our concerns (correspondence sent to the management committee previously). No response has been received as yet.

Lock the Gate are following up on this and will keep EnvA informed.

2. Update on Vitrinite's potential breaches under the EPBC Act

In brief, Vitrinite secure an environmental authority for a bulk sampling pit and proceeded with the project. It was not made available for public consultation, and was not referred for assessment under the EPBC Act. We only found out about the project when Vitrinite cleared outside of the approved footprint.

EnvA initially wrote to DCCEEW when we first became aware of the project and requested an investigation. We then sent a follow up email with images of the clearing and asked for an update on the investigation.

After receiving no response, we released our letter to the media (coordinated by the Sunrise Project) which resulted in some good media coverage on the situation.

EnvA also wrote to DESI about the potential breach of the requirements specified in the infringement notice in relation to the rehabilitation of the 'breach area'. Drone footage suggests that no rehabilitation activities had commenced by 15 July 2024.

We recently received correspondence from DCCEEW and DESI – both were fob-off replies without responses. Some further drone footage will be taken today, so we will follow up with both departments when we know more about the current activities.

There may be a need for EnvA to apply for an injunction through the courts, but it shouldn't be up to us to do government's work for them.

3. Update on Blue Energy legal action – verbal update only

4. Update on Rolleston Coal legal action – verbal update only

5. For discussion - EnvA's role in the conservation sector – are we still needed, and do we have value given LTG taking on EnvA's campaigns (other than the legal action) and other local regional conservation groups now stepping up more?

General consensus is that EnvA is a valuable contributor to the conservation sector in Central Queensland and all committee members value our contribution to making a difference.

Committee members are supportive of EnvA's contribution and leadership in matters relating to our campaigns and additional input to related matters.

Other Business

Water Quality Improvement Plan submissions due soon. Coral outlined the concept of joining a joint submission process being led by the Australian Marine Conservation Society. The draft submission doesn't include the impacts of coal mines to water quality in the GBR catchment. Coral will add some high-level comments to the joint submission and if accepted, EnvA will sign as a member group in support of the group submission.

Meeting close and date for next informal meeting

Next informal meeting in November (date and time TBA)

Next formal meeting in December (date and time TBA)

Meeting closed: 7.00 pm