

Yarrabah Microgrid Feasibility Study Newsletter

ISSUE 4 / June 2021



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

130	Hours of Engagement
100	Face to Face Sessions
430	Stakeholders Engaged
14	Pop up Stalls
48	Minutes of Radio Interviews
41	Business and Residential Audits
389	Views on our 'YouTube' channel

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES – APRIL TO JUNE

Community engagement played a big part in our activities over the past few months with ongoing and specific conversations being had with Stakeholders and the Yarrabah Community. So far the project has undertaken over 130 hours of engagement with 428 stakeholders.

The project team together with Cairns Regional Council hosted an e-mobility and low emissions transport workshop on 17th May and an e-mobility and Transport Resilience Strategy with Yarrabah Council on 18th May.

E-MOBILITY DAY YARRABAH

The e-mobility day held in Yarrabah on 18 May 2021, introduced the community to e-vehicles. The CaPTA group provided an electric bus and micro mobility (e-bikes, e-scooters, and one-wheels) were provided by local Cairns based company Urban Wheelz.

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council wants to be at the forefront of technological change as it adopts a strategic plan to provide more of its residents with “opportunity-driving” transport. The hands on experience helped the community visualise the options available for transport and how transport options form part of the microgrid.



Mayor Ross Andrews rides an e-bike



The day was well attended by the community and it was great to see Mayor Ross Andrews, and Yarrabah Councillors taking the opportunity to ride on the electric bus and scooters.

Yarrabah E-Mobility Day: Cr Kenneth Jackson, Mayor Ross Andrews, Cr David Baird, Leon Yeatman CEO, Cr Lucretia Willett (18 May 2021)

E-MOBILITY AND LOW EMISSIONS TRANSPORT WORKSHOP

As part of the feasibility study into alternative energy, a microgrid in the Yarrabah community, we partnered with Cairns Regional Council to hold an electric vehicle and low emissions transport workshop on 17th May 2021. The event was hosted by Dr Jake Whitehead, an e-mobility expert from Brisbane, whose career has been primarily focussed on future transport including energy efficient vehicles. This part of the project addresses the need to meaningfully plan and deliver transport equity in an Indigenous community and why partnering with regional councils is important.

Mayor Ross Andrews, said “We’re looking at a battery-operated ferry service from Cairns to Yarrabah – that’s a potential (goer) with the construction of the new Yarrabah jetty”.

The conversations from the day centred on what is e-mobility and how does it fit into transport, tourism, and indigenous communities. The event included access to a variety of micro e-mobility vehicles (scooters, bikes, one-wheels).

LOWER TRANSPORT & ENERGY COSTS

- Charging an EV is equivalent to paying \$0.30 to \$0.50 per litre in fuel → can be even cheaper with super off peak electricity
- EVs can act as “Batteries-on-Wheels” storing cheap renewable energy, and providing back to homes or the grid on demand → lower energy costs + grid stability
- EVs are great batteries as parked 90% of the time, and less than 10% battery capacity used for average daily driving
- Opportunities to provide mobile backup power during natural disasters, blackouts
- EVs can also power work tools and camp sites

Excerpt from Dr. Jake Whitehead’s Presentation



Urban Wheelz owner and workshop attendee

To help deliver reliable and sustainable electricity supply to the Yarrabah Community, the Australian Government has delivered significant investments focused on creating jobs and driving economic growth in our regions.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Visit our website and YouTube channel to find out more about microgrids and how they can be a part of the Yarrabah Community. www.energy-connect.net.au and keep an eye on Council’s Facebook page – it has regular updates www.facebook.com/yarrabah.qld.gov.au. Just give us a call and have a chat or send an e-mail:

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