

<b>Project ID No.</b>	CP 74 / 4 / 1 / 1
<b>GOAL</b>	4
<b>SUB-PROGRAM</b>	

## Effective Networking Communities of Practice

Action plans must be submitted online to [www.reframingthefuture.net](http://www.reframingthefuture.net) by COB Tuesday 20 June 2006.

Please refer to 'How to submit an action plan online' in the Reframing the Future handout or on the website.

All sections must be completed.

Please note: sections 1 – 9 of this document will be uploaded onto the Reframing the Future website. Details of participants in item 11 will be only be used in accordance with our privacy policy and will not be published on the website.

### Name of organisation funded by Reframing the Future

Queensland University of Technology
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#### 3. Project overview (100 words maximum)

What outcomes do you hope to achieve in your project?

The project will promote and enhance pathways and delivery in the ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY *Training Package*. Focus on:

- Development of a *dual award* (pathway from TAFE Diploma to degree) between BNIT and QUT in Renewable Energy/Environmental Sciences for implementation in 2008.
- Sharing of knowledge and resources across BNIT, QUT and school science practitioners to enhance delivery of Diploma of Renewable Energy by BNIT.
- Establishing and promoting VET pathways in Renewable Energy by BNIT to school sector.
- Identifying overlap in school science curricula and Renewable Energy Diploma, and possibilities for BNIT to deliver Certificate II/III to high school students.
- Provision of Professional Development by BNIT to school science teachers.

#### 4. Domain of knowledge

What aspects of the national training system will be addressed by your project?

(e.g. establishing relationships with industry clients; improving workplace assessment or delivery; implementing new Training Packages) (Please add rows as required)

The Community of Practice will enhance implementation of Training Packages and development of seamless pathways through:

- Bringing together all stakeholders to collaboratively develop content, knowledge, pathways and delivery and assessment strategies in relation to the Diploma of Renewable Energy (from the *Electrical And Electronic Engineering And Technology Training Package*).
- The formation and strengthening of seamless pathways options from the Certificate levels to Diploma.
- Establishing seamless pathways for students from school to Vocational Education to University through the development of the dual award and the delivery of VET qualifications to high school students.
- Strengthening relationships between practitioners from the three sectors to assist in the delivery.
- Identifying appropriate certificate courses BNIT can offer to school science students and explore implementation opportunities.
- Identifying professional development opportunities BNIT can assist school staff with in line with Certificate II and III qualifications.

### 5. Facilitating your community of practice

Please describe how you propose to facilitate your group progressing through the stages of growth of a Community of Practice (see Table 4.1 in the report: *The Potential for Communities of Practice to underpin the National Training Framework*):

The C of P will engage with and revisit the proposed project action plan and outcomes as per the application. This will be crucial to gaining individual support and ownership of the project by community members having a common and shared understanding of the project, outcomes and domain that will be explored.

Co-facilitators whose expertise is in the process of engagement (not renewable energy specific curriculum) will develop and nurture the C of P leveraging off existing relationships. Within the C of P, an atmosphere of trust and cooperation will be encouraged so members can freely enter into dialogue with each other and share their knowledge, experiences,

#### 1. Potential stage

Community members will explore common interests, identify group needs and develop the shared vision and common achievable goals of the C of P. The facilitators will encourage members to share their knowledge, concerns, expectations and their anticipated levels of commitment and contribution to the C of P. It is essential all members understand the roles and challenges faced by other members and those from other organisations. From this process the shared vision for the community will emerge and members with particular strengths and skills will be identified which may be utilised in future stages of the community's life.

#### 2. Coalescing stage

Through facilitation support, the community members will continue to build connections, relationships and networks in order to share and explore ideas, insights and practices. It is essential that the facilitators at this stage allow individual members to engage fully with others and participate in relationship building. This will enhance existing connections between community members and new members will be recruited. The community will be launched sharing the agreed vision and project outcomes.

#### 3. Active/Maturing stage

Community members will be engaged in activities that support the development of a shared practice model. These activities will range from participating in identified tasks to involvement in 'sub' activities. These 'sub' activities will require the establishment of working parties designed to harness the skills and interests of individuals who will work as representatives of the group and feed back the results, findings and outcomes to the larger c of p. This forms part of a reciprocal process of information sharing and knowledge creation within the domain. The co-facilitators will support the c of p to ensure an environment that allows for the project outcomes and relationship to develop.

#### 4. Dispersing/Maturing stage

The identified project work of the C of P will be achieved through active project management and an evaluation of the benefits of the process and the various participants undertaken. Discussion on the future direction of the community will occur with consideration to future outcomes as well as what can be achieved by individual and organisational members. Consensus on the viability of the community continuation, evolution and sustainability aligned to future direction, opportunity and collaboration.

Outcomes of this project will be clearly reported so that both members and others outside the C of P will benefit from the learning that has occurred.

**6. Structuring your community**

Please describe how you propose to support the development of the three components of your community: its domain of knowledge, community and practice (see *Effectively Structuring Communities of Practice in VET*):

The three participating education sectors (Secondary schools, VET, Tertiary) are all committed to the development of this c of p as it is critical to the development of pathways for students in the sustainability context – a context identified as emerging and vital in relation to the population growth in south east Queensland. They have committed to staff involvement and active participation. Other community members have already been approached to also participate from the Renewable Energy perspective.

The domain will need to ensure that members are comfortable with the shared knowledge and that this information raises the level of desired participation and interaction. Trust and goodwill will be established and knowledge shared through effective networking, activities and discussions.

Even though the Action Plan has been developed and proposed, it will be put to the group for endorsement and agreement of on-going process.

**7. Anticipated outcomes** (see Chapters 6-7 of *The Potential*)

Please describe the outcomes anticipated as a result of your project:

for participating individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced knowledge of Renewable Energy/Sustainable Sciences pathways</li> <li>• Greater networking, sharing and professional development opportunities</li> <li>• Sense of ownership as contributed to development process</li> </ul>
for participating organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of social capital as members return to organisations with outcomes detailed above.</li> <li>• Pathways from schools to TAFE to University for students.</li> <li>• Enhanced links to industry and government agencies in the domain.</li> <li>• Provision of a model for further pathway development.</li> </ul>

**8. Evaluation**

Please provide an outline of the methods you will use to evaluate the participants' learning and your project's efficiency and effectiveness.

- Evaluation will occur throughout the project and collection will be through formal and informal measures.
- Initially, the facilitator will acquaint participants with the purpose and theoretical underpinning of Communities of Practice.
- Members will be asked to consider the Action Plan, record their own expectations and commit to the project.
- Members will be introduced to a 'personal learning journal' and will be encouraged to use it to record, explore, promote and review their understandings. This will also provide information/knowledge for them to take back into their own institutions
- A 'Workbased Learning' model of evaluation will be employed through monitoring against the Action Plan and the provision of mid-and final reports. The data collection will involve what is being delivered in schools, TAFE and universities, in what form and by whom. A mapping exercise will then be completed to gain comparisons. At this stage the objectives will need to be re-visited to ensure they are still relevant.
- All activities/events will involve both formal and informal evaluation. Anecdotal information will be collected and recorded.
- Evaluations will not just measure the information gained and the needs identified, but also the relationships developed, professional growth and opportunities revealed beyond the project proposal. Also they will seek to learn how and to what extent the new knowledge has been dispersed back to the organisations represented.

**9. Project timeframe**

Please list project milestones and key dates

(Please add rows as required)

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Key date</b>
Action Plan	June 20
Group Identified	July (beginning)
Initial c of p meeting	July (end)
'RPL done well' forum	August
Project Activities/meetings/forums	August - November
Mapping to begin	August
Project Mid-term Report	September 5
Mapping to be completed	October (mid)
Final forum and evaluation	November (mid)
National forum - Sydney	November (late)
Project Final Report	December 5
Project Acquittal	January 29 (2007)