

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner (Chair)
Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)
Kelly King (Hastings Business Women's Network)
Paul Dawson (Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association)
Anthony Thorne (Hastings Construction Industry Association Inc.)
John Saunders (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce)
Haydn Oriti (Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce)
Greg Freeman (Individual)

Other Attendees:

Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)
Jeffery Sharp (Director Strategy & Growth)
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)
David Archer (Economic Development Officer)
Sue East (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce)

The meeting opened at 8:33am.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That apologies received from Peter Halliwell, Professor Heather Cavanagh and Councillor Mike Cusato be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 31 January 2018 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Item 06 Update on Urban Growth Management Strategy Review

An update on the Airport Business Park will be provided at the 14 March 2018 meeting.

06 LOCAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Council's Economic Development Officer presented an overview of recent local economic indicators and trends and comparisons with other regional Councils. The Group noted the data represents a great story of the growth being experienced locally. They discussed the importance of infrastructure, sustained investment, and promoting the positive jobs growth message.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Group note the update on local economic performance.
2. Group Manger Economic Development and Communications to distribute a copy of the presentation to the Group.

07 PRIORITY PROJECT AND FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The General Manager briefed the Group on recent work to identify and progress priority projects, including recent funding bids developed under Council's External Funding Strategy. He noted the complexities around identifying projects which meet the various funding criteria and on-going conversations with other levels of government to ensure we are best placed to take advantage of funding opportunities.

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the update on priority projects and funding considerations.

08 NEXT MEETING

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 8.30am at Council Headquarters.

09 GENERAL BUSINESS

09.01 COUNCIL REPORTS

The General Manager noted reports being presented to the February Council meeting on Financial Sustainability and Reserves Review.

CONSENSUS:

An update on the Financial Sustainability and Reserves Review reports be provided at the March 2018 meeting.

09.02 A. R. BLUETT AWARD

The General Manager noted Council's win of the A. R. Bluett Award in late 2017 and that Trustees will be in Port Macquarie on 12 March 2018.

CONSENSUS:

An invitation will issued to the Group to attend the official plaque presentation at the Glasshouse.

The meeting closed at 9:57am.