
PRESENT**Members:**

Councillor Rob Turner
Councillor Trevor Sargeant
Councillor Mike Cusato
Karen Archer (Hastings Business Women's Network)
Ross Cargill (Mid North Coast NSW Business Chamber)
Joy Corben (Port Macquarie-Hastings Education and Skills Forum)
Rob Hamilton (Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association)
Anthony Thorne (Hastings Construction Industry Association Inc.)
John Saunders (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce & Industry)
Professor Heather Cavanagh (Higher Education)
Haydn Oriti (Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce)

Other Attendees:

Tricia Bulic (Director Community & Economic Growth)
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)

The meeting opened at 8.30am.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from Craig Swift-McNair and Jill Follington be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 2 December 2015 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM 10 - 07.10.2015 -GENERAL BUSINESS - HANDA SISTER CITY VISIT

CONSENSUS:

That this Item to be reported to the 2 March 2016 meeting.

06 FREE CAMPING UPDATE

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group note the free camping brief and support the continuation of the current approach, as defined by Council's Free Camping Position Statement.
 2. That the Group encourages ongoing monitoring of free camping trends locally and in neighbouring councils.
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07 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND 2016 PRIORITIES

Councillor Sargeant advised the Group that there was unanimous support by Councillors for the four key priorities for 2016 and this was a good endorsement of the work of the Economic Development Steering Group and Economic Development team.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group acknowledged the four key priorities for 2016, were presented to and noted by Council at the 16 December 2015 Ordinary Council meeting.
 2. That quarterly updates against the four key priorities for 2016 be presented to future Economic Development Steering Group meetings, commencing March 2016.
 3. That an update on Council progress regarding key infrastructure priorities be presented to the next meeting of the Economic Development Steering Group.
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08 OUTDOOR DINING - CAMDEN HAVEN AND WAUCHOPE

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group supports Council consideration of the waiving outdoor dining fees in areas of the local government area outside Port Macquarie, for a trial period of approximately 2 years.
2. That a further report be presented to the Economic Development Steering Group in relation to other outdoor dining/retailing matters raised, at or before the 6 April meeting.

09 TOWNS AND VILLAGE SIGNAGE

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group support the formation of a working group to discuss and make recommendations regarding Towns and Villages entrance signage.
2. That the Director of Community & Economic Growth report to the 2 March 2016 meeting on the proposed working group composition and next steps.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.01 Business Confidence Survey:

The Group Manager Economic Development advised the Committee that wave 1 of the 2016 Business Confidence Survey will roll out in late February 2016.

The meeting closed at 10.05am.