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**PRESENT**

***Members:***

Councillor Rob Turner  
Councillor Trevor Sargeant  
Karen Archer (Hastings Business Women's Network)  
Ross Cargill (Mid North Coast NSW Business Chamber)  
Joy Corben (Port Macquarie-Hastings Education and Skills Forum)  
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)  
Belinda Richardson (Independent)

***Other Attendees:***

Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)  
Tricia Bulic (Director Community & Economic Growth)  
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)

***Guests:***

Jeffery Sharp (Director Infrastructure & Asset Management) - part meeting  
Ashley Grummitt (Group Manager Commercial & Business Services) - part meeting  
Ross Smith (Senior Economic Development Officer)

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The meeting opened at 8.30am.

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**01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

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The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

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**02 APOLOGIES**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the apologies received from Rob Hamilton and Councillor Mike Cusato be accepted.

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**03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 3 February 2016 be confirmed.

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**04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

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There were no disclosures of interest presented.

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**05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**ITEM 07 03/02/2016 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW AND 2016 PRIORITIES**

Quarterly updates against the four key priorities for 2016 to be presented to future Economic Development Steering Group meetings, commencing April 2016.

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**06 MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS - UPDATE**

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The Director Infrastructure and Asset Management updated the Group on major infrastructure investigation, planning and project work, including:

- Lake Road
- Hastings River Drive duplication
- Southern access to Airport & Southern Link Road

**CONSENSUS:**

1. That the Group note the update on major infrastructure investigation, planning and project work.
  2. That the Group note Council's good relationship with RMS contributed to the positive results achieved on these projects.
  3. That the Group Manager Economic Development distribute more detailed notes from the Major Infrastructure Projects Update with the Minutes of this meeting.
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**07 HANDA SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP**

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**CONSENSUS:**

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group agreed they were keen to see the relationship continue to develop, but acknowledged that this would take time.
2. That the Group note ongoing Council involvement is important in achieving business and community outcomes.
3. That the Group recommend Council consider an annual delegation visit to Handa, consisting of one or two Council representatives and self-funded business/community representatives.
4. That the Group note the need to seek interest from local businesses, who may wish to establish an export/import relationship with Japan.
5. note we should not limit our relationships with Handa region, but instead see it as a portal to opportunities across Japan.
6. That the Group conduct ongoing review of how the Handa Sister City relationship is progressing.

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**08 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - QUARTERLY IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the update on progress against the 2016 Economic Development Strategy priorities be deferred to the April 2016 meeting.

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**09 TOWNS AND VILLAGES ENTRANCE SIGNAGE WORKING GROUP**

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The Director Community & Economic Growth briefed the Group on the proposed way forward and composition of the Towns and Villages Entrance Signage Working Group.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. That the Group note the Placemaking team's extensive work with a number of communities in gathering ideas for the Towns and Villages Entrance Signage Working Group.
2. That the Group note the members of the Towns and Villages Entrance Signage Working Group are; Councillor Rob Turner, Director Community & Economic Growth, Tricia Bulic, Group Manager Economic Development, Liesa Davies and Group Manager Community Place, Lucilla Marshall.
3. That the Economic Development Steering Group be updated by the Towns and Villages Entrance Signage Working Group on progress at the April 2016 Economic Development Steering Group meeting.

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**10 OUTDOOR DINING**

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The Group Manager Economic Development and Group Manager Commercial and Business Services updated the Group on progress regarding the proposed waiver of outdoor dining fees outside of Port Macquarie.

**CONSENSUS:**

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group note the update on progress regarding the proposed fee waiver, the current review of Council's Outdoor Dining Policies and Procedures.
  2. That further investigation is to occur regarding footpath retailing.
  3. That the Economic Development Steering Group receive an update at the May 2016 meeting.
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**11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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**11.01 Rental Properties:**

John Saunders discussed with the Group anecdotal feedback that there had been a marked increase in properties available for rent in the region.

**CONSENSUS:**

That John Saunders seek to validate and understand this change and report back to the April 2016 Economic Development Steering Group Meeting.

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The meeting closed at 9.57am.