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**PRESENT**

***Members:***

Councillor Peter Besseling (Mayor)  
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:***

Rebecca Olsen (Acting General Manager)  
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)  
Amanda Hatton (Major Events Manager)  
David Archer (Economic Development Officer)

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The meeting opened at 8:33am.

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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 Councillor Rob Turner, Jill Follington, Belinda Richardson, Craig Swift-McNair and Tricia Bulic 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 2 March 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 EVENTS UPDATE**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the presentation and positive economic impact of major events be noted. The Group emphasised the importance of future planning to support the needs of major events.

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**07 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY RESULTS**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group noted the top-line survey results from Wave 1 of the 2016 Local Business Confidence Survey and that a final report and summary would be distributed.

In discussing survey responses and constraints to local business, it was agreed that Council's position on local preference (with regard to Procurement Policy) be discussed at the May EDSG meeting.

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

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group noted the update on progress against the 2016 Economic Development Strategy priorities and agreed that presentation be distributed to the Group via email. Any further questions or comments are to be emailed to the Group Manager Economic Development.

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**09 TOWNS AND VILLAGES ENTRANCE SIGNAGE**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group noted the update from the Towns and Villages Entrance Signage Working Group and that further information would be provided at the May 2016 Economic Development Steering Group meeting.

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**10 RENTAL PROPERTY SUPPLY**

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**CONSENSUS**

1. That the Group note the update provided by John Saunders.
2. That the student accommodation uptake rate be discussed at the May 2016 Economic Development Steering Group meeting.

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**11 ADVOCACY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That this item be deferred to the May 2016 Economic Development Steering Group meeting.

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**12 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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Nil.

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The meeting closed at 10:00am.