

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Peter Besseling (Mayor) (part of meeting)
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)
Prof. Heather Cavanagh (Higher Education)
Haydn Oriti (Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce)
Jill Follington (Industry Mid North Coast)
Belinda Richardson (Independent)

Other Attendees:

Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)
Tricia Bulic (Director Community & Economic Growth)
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)
Matt Rogers (Director Development & Environment) (part of meeting)
Dan Croft (Group Manager Development Assessment) (part of meeting)
Susanne Ech (Economic Development)

The meeting opened at [time].

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apology received from John Saunders be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COSNENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 1 April 2015 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM 11 - 03/12/2014 - CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN

Item to be tabled at the EDSG Meeting on 1 July 2015.

ITEM 11 - 04/02/2015 - UPDATE ON BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY

Item to be tabled at the EDSG Meeting on 1 July 2015.

07 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS, CONSIDERATION OF CHARTER AND BUSINESS RULES

Clr Turner welcomed new and returning committee members and short self-introductions followed.

Members were reminded of the Group Charter and their role as facilitators of information between Council, the Economic Development Steering Group, local business and industry.

The draft Business Rules were distributed for members' consideration prior to the next meeting.

CONSENSUS:

That members provide feedback on the draft Business Rules at the Economic Development Steering Group meeting, to be held on 3 June 2015.

06 REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

CONSENSUS

That the Economic Development Steering Group note the achievements to date in implementing the 2013-2016 Economic Development Strategy.

08 HANDA SISTER CITY VISIT

The Mayor noted the 25th anniversary of the Sister City relationship and the recent Port Macquarie-Hastings delegation visit (9-13 April). He noted possible mutually beneficial opportunities around education, tourism, food and wine.

The Mayor also outlined the planned visit by Handa official and business delegations in August 2015. He welcomed the Group's input into and involvement in the itinerary and potential longer term strategy for future business elements to the relationship.

CONSENSUS:

That the Handa Sister City sub-committee be asked to consider Economic Development Steering Group input on the proposed August 2015 visit and future exchanges.

09 DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT - TRENDS AND FEEDBACK

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group note the brief provided on Development Assessment trends, timeframes and Customer feedback.
 2. That the May Council meeting report on Development Assessment be distributed to the Economic Development Steering Group members for information.
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10 CONSIDERATION OF FINAL DRAFT DIGITAL STRATEGY

The group provided feedback on and suggested minor amendments to the draft Digital Strategy.

CONSENSUS:

That the Economic Development Steering Group endorse the final draft Digital Strategy prior to its presentation to Council for adoption at the 20 May 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting.

11 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY RESULTS

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Economic Development Steering Group note the results of the third in Council's Business Confidence Survey series and trends to date.
 2. That the Economic Development Steering Group discuss the approach to the August 2015 Business Confidence Survey at the 1 July meeting.
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**12 DRAFT TRANSPORT WAREHOUSE INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN
ENDORSEMENT**

CONSENSUS:

That the Economic Development Steering Group endorse the draft Transport and Warehousing Industry Action Plan, with minor amendments.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

The meeting closed at 10.00am.