

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

Councillor Rob Turner (Chair)  
Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Mike Cusato (Chair of External Grants and Revenues Portfolio)  
Kelly King (Hastings Business Women's Network)  
Paul Dawson (Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association)  
Anthony Thorne (Hastings Construction Industry Association Inc.)  
Professor Heather Cavanagh (Higher Education)  
John Saunders (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce)  
Haydn Oriti (Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce)  
Greg Freeman (Individual)  
Peter Halliwell (Independent)

**Other Attendees:**

Jeffery Sharp (Director Strategy & Growth)  
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development & Communications)  
Ross Smith (Senior Economic Development Officer)  
Alex Gray (Economic Development Project Officer)  
Kelly Mapleston (Major Events Manager)  
Sue East (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce)

---

The meeting opened at 8:35am.

---

**01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

---

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

---

**02 APOLOGIES**

---

**CONSENSUS:**

That apology received from Craig Swift-McNair be accepted.

---

---

### **03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

#### CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 29 November 2017 be confirmed.

---

### **04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

---

### **05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### Item 9.01 Biannual Strategy Implementation Update

#### CONSENSUS:

Group Manager Economic Development & Communications to circulate the report from the 29 November 2017 meeting to the Economic Development Steering Group for feedback on reporting format and future priorities.

---

### **06 THE HUB POP-UP - BUSINESS AND CO-WORKING SPACE**

Senior Economic Development Officer, Ross Smith, briefed the Group on the future operation of the Hub pop-up business and co-working space. It was noted that testing of the space occurred recently with use from 1 February 2018 and official opening on 7 February 2018. Further information, including details on how to book the space, is available on Council's website.

The Economic Development Steering Group applauded the initiative and encouraged collation of early feedback from users to ensure the opportunity from the project is maximised.

#### CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the presentation on 'The Hub', Council's pop-up business and co-working space.

---

## **07 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS SKILLS AUDIT PROJECT**

---

Economic Development Officer, Alex Gray, briefed the Group on the work underway and planned for the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Skills Audit which is being co-funded by Council and a Building Better Regions Fund grant.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note the presentation on the Port Macquarie Hastings Skills Audit project which will be finalised in May 2018.

---

## **08 NEXT MEETING**

---

### **CONSENSUS:**

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

---

## **09 GENERAL BUSINESS**

---

### **09.01 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS COUNCIL KEY STRATEGIES**

---

Cr Robert Turner noted there is a lot of activity around some key Council strategies underway – with some being under development and others on exhibition for comment. He spoke to upcoming Councillor planning to ensure these are aligned appropriately under the one 'blueprint' to take our region into the future, and encouraged members to actively review and provide feedback as opportunity arises.

---

### **09.02 INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING**

---

A number of Economic Development Steering Group members noted recent conversations with the Member for Port Macquarie around current funding NSW Government opportunities and urged the Council to ensure these opportunities are not missed.

**09.03 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT**

---

Kelly King provided details to the Economic Development Steering Group on the Hastings Business Women's Network International Women's Day event on 8 March 2018.

---

The meeting closed at 10:00am.