

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)
Paul Dawson (Greater Port Macquarie Tourism Association)
Anthony Thorne (Hastings Construction Industry Association Inc.)
Susan East (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce)
Haydn Oriti (Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce)
Peter Halliwell (Independent)

Other Attendees:

Holly McBride (Acting Director Strategy & Growth)
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic Development)
David Archer (Senior Economic Development Officer)

The meeting opened at 8:35am.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apologies received from Councillor Rob Turner, Councillor Mike Cusato, Craig Swift-McNair, Greg Freeman, Kelly King and Professor Heather Cavanagh be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 9 May 2019 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

Noted, with further consideration to be given at agenda Item 6.

06 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF SMART CITY STRATEGY

The Group Manager Economic Development and Communications briefed the Group on the 15 May 2019 Council decision regarding the development of a Smart City Strategy under Council's 2019/2020 Operational Plan.

Cr Hawkins provided an overview of the learnings from the Smart Cities Conference, which he and Cr Turner attended in Melbourne on 30-31 May 2019. In particular, he mentioned key points around;

- The need to focus on "smart communities";
- "Smart" does not equal technology - technology is a tool not a goal;
- That it's critical to know who you are before you start developing a strategy;
- Need to have "customer centre" approach;
- Cities are not homogenous, no shoe fits all cities/whole city - close engagement with community is key, as is placemaking and human centre design;
- Collaboration between 3 levels of government and major institutions, utilities, business community and broader community is critical;
- Creating a smart city is a process, not an event with an end point.

CONSENSUS:

The Group noted:

1. The 15 May 2019 Council resolution to develop a Smart City Strategy under Council's 2019/2020 Operational Plan, with further conversations to occur with the Group when project planning is underway.
2. The update by Cr Hawkins from the recent Smart Cities Conference.

07 2019 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY

The Senior Economic Development Officer provide an overview of the timeline for Council's annual Business Confidence Survey rollout and analysis. The Group discussed the proposed supplementary questions regarding 'Innovation'.

CONSENSUS:

That the Group:

1. Noted the draft timeline for the rollout of the 2019 Port Macquarie Hastings Business Confidence Survey commencing August 2019.
2. Provided feedback on supplementary survey questions for 2019.

08 NSW GOVERNMENT HIGH SPEED RAIL ENGAGEMENT

The Group Manager Economic Development and Communication briefed the Group on the late May meeting she and the General Manager attended with Professor Andrew McNoughton who has been appointed to lead an expert panel and provide advice to the Premier and Deputy Premier on how the government should best deliver a fast rail network to connect the State. She noted, discussions were wide ranging and included the sharing of information on the current status of our region, potential futures, key challenges and opportunities, and transport linkages (locally, regionally and further afield).

CONSENSUS:

That the Group noted the update from The Group Manager Economic Development and Communications on recent engagement regarding the proposed NSW High Speed Rail Project.

09 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR NEXT TERM OF MEMBERSHIP

Sue East noted that she will not be re-nominating, Stuart Bates will be nominating as the new Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce President. The Group thanked her for her contribution.

CONSENSUS:

The Group noted the currently advertised opportunity to submit expressions of interest for the next term of membership for the Economic Development Steering Group by 26 June 2019.

10 NEXT MEETING

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the next meeting will be on Wednesday 10 July 2019 in the Function Room, PMHC Headquarters at 8:30am.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

The meeting closed at 9:55am.