

PRESENT

Members:

Councillor Rob Turner (Chair)
Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)
Kelly King
Paul Dawson
Anthony Thorne
Kate Wood-Foye
Stuart Bate
Hadyn Oriti
Ross Cargill
Peter Halliwell
Jane Evans
Michelle Love
Kellon Beard

Other Attendees:

Craig Swift-McNair (PMHC General Manager)
Jeffery Sharp (PMHC Director Strategy and Growth)
Liesa Davies (PMHC Group Manager Economic Development & Communications)
Marissa Clift - Economic Development Officer

The meeting opened at 8:30am.

01 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was delivered.

02 APOLOGIES

CONSENSUS:

That the apology received from Councillor Mike Cusato be accepted.

03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 10 July 2019 be confirmed.

04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Tony Thorne declared a Non-Pecuniary, Significant interest in Item 08 - Orbital Road Update, the reason being he represents J Newton Construction and Mr and Mrs Newton and St Agnes Parish.

05 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

06 INTRODUCTION TO THE EDSG AND OUR ONGOING FOCUS

The Chair invited short introduction from all members noting it was the first meeting of the new term of the Group.

The Group Manager Economic Development and Communications shared a brief overview of Council's Economic Development focus, including the 2017-2019 Port Macquarie Hastings Economic Development Strategy vision, mission and outcomes and recent priorities which had been discussed at EDSG meetings.

Returning members noted the importance of the leadership role of the Group, not just working with Council, but with other levels of Government - both local members and senior bureaucrats - to ensure positive action on important local issues.

CONSENSUS:

1. That new members noted the recent focus of the Group and observations from members over the previous two year membership term.
2. That upcoming EDSG meetings would include a focus on:
 - September: consultation with the Group as part of Council's Destination Management Planning; and
 - October: the 6 monthly Strategy implementation update, including performance against KPIs.

07 2019 BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY

The Group Manager Economic Development and Communications noted Council's annual Business Confidence Survey was currently being undertaken (online and by phone) with a closing date of 31 August. The General Manager noted Council would consider the Quarterly Development Activity and Assessment System Performance report, at its 21 August 2019 meeting, and that this showed development activity in our local government area continued to be strong, in spite of reported slowing of the housing market in metropolitan areas.

CONSENSUS:

That the Group:

1. Noted the 2019 Port Macquarie Hastings Business Confidence Survey is currently underway.
2. Promote participation in the survey via local networks and business community contacts.

08 PROPOSED ORBITAL ROAD PROJECT UPDATE

Tony Thorne declared a Non-Pecuniary, Significant interest in this Item, left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The General Manager spoke to the 19 June 2019 Council decision regarding the proposed Orbital Road and the unsuccessful rescission motion considered at the 17 July 2019 Ordinary Council meeting. He noted the complexity of the 14 point Council resolution and reiterated to the Group that the decision to move to a Strategic Business Case development does not mean there has been any decision to proceed with design or construction, or any particular route. On the contrary, the Strategic Business Case will include a review of alternate route options and how these compare with, or add to, possible improvements to the existing road network, such as planned upgrades to Lake Road, Ocean Drive, or other Council-managed roads, and the Oxley Highway, as a State-managed road. At the conclusion of the Strategic Business Case, the intent is that Council will have a more detailed appreciation of the preferred option(s) to alleviate traffic congestion via better dispersal of traffic across the network.

It was also noted that the 21 August 2019 Council meeting will consider a proposed charter for the establishment (via expression of interest) of a Community Consultative Committee to support broader transport network planning. Further, an update on action relating to the proposed Orbital Road June resolution would be presented to the 18 September 2019 Council meeting.

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note and support the 19 June 2019 resolution of Council regarding the Proposed Orbital Road Project.

09 NEXT MEETING

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the next meeting will commence at 8am on Wednesday 11 September 2019 in the Function Room, PMHC Headquarters.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

10.01 DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP

CONSENSUS:

That the primary focus of the next meeting would be on discussions and Group input in support of Council's development of a new Destination Management Plan.

10.02 SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON JOBS FOR THE FUTURE IN REGIONAL AREAS

The Group Manager Economic Development and Communications noted a recent invitation to provide a written submission to the Senate Select Committee on Jobs for the Future in Regional Areas.

CONSENSUS:

1. That the Group Manager Economic Development and Communications distribute the Committee's terms of reference to the Group.
2. Members provide input on matters they believe should be considered in a Council submission to Group Manager Economic Development and Communications by 2 September 2019.

The meeting closed at 10:04am.