

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

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

**Other Attendees:**

Jeffery Sharp (Director Strategy and Growth)  
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development)  
David Archer (Senior Economic Development Officer)  
Marissa Clift (Economic Development Officer)

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The meeting opened at 8:30am.

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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 Anthony Thorne, Jane Evans and Craig Swift-McNair 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 27 November 2019 be confirmed.

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### **04 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest presented.

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

#### 05.1 Water Restrictions

Following the discussion on level 3 water restrictions (at the last meeting) and the Level 4 at this meeting, Hadyn Oriti proposed the Group discuss/receive an update on water security.

**CONSENSUS:**

A water security report be scheduled on the agenda with a briefing from relevant Council staff at a future meeting.

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### **06 WATER RESTRICTIONS - BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACTS**

The Group discussed current Level 4 water restrictions and the positive engagement with the community and local business users on water saving actions. The Group asked questions and received information from Director Strategy and Growth on local government area and residential water infrastructure in the Port Macquarie-Hastings region - from dams and desalination to rainwater tanks.

**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note:

1. The recent introduction of Level 4 water restrictions and engagement with the community, business and commercial users.
2. Two reports will be presented to the February 2020 Ordinary Council meeting regarding water restrictions and water security.
3. That further information on water security will be presented at a future meeting (as per business arising)

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**07 BUSHFIRE RECOVERY - ENGAGEMENT WITH AND FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL BUSINESS**

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Director Strategy and Growth briefed the Group on recent Council engagement with bushfire affected communities and local businesses (including business groups) to understand recovery needs and finalise a plan for the \$1M federal government funding and \$250,000 from the NSW Government.

The Chair commended Charles Sturt University on the job they did to support bushfire efforts.

Michelle Love noted positively the Council Communications Team Facebook videos to encourage locals to support local.

**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note:

1. Feedback from local business regarding the impact of the November 2019 bushfires;
2. Actions taken by Council to support the local community and business and encourage visitors to continue with existing and plan new stays in the region.

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**08 DRAFT DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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**CONSENSUS:**

1. The Draft Destination Management Plan is on exhibition until 21 February 2020 and feedback/submissions are encouraged.
2. It is anticipated that the final plan will be presented to the 18 March 2020 Ordinary Council meeting.

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**09 NSW SMALL BUSINESS STRATEGY 2020 - OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT**

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The Group discussed the potential to raise specific issues around doing business in Regional NSW as well as matters such as decentralisation and procurement.

**CONSENSUS:**

That the Group:

1. Note the opportunity to provide feedback on the NSW Government's Small Business Strategy 2020 Discussion Paper;
2. Provide input to an Economic Development Steering Group submission to the Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development by 26 February 2020.

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## **10 SMART COMMUNITY ROADMAP**

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Council's Economic Development Officer briefed the Group on the Project, its scope, planned engagement and future stages.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group;

1. Note the commencement of a Smart Community Roadmap project and opportunity to provide input.
  2. A roadmap to be presented to the May 2020 Economic Development Steering Group meeting.
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## **11 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **11.01 SMART COMMUNITIES**

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Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development to share the Smart Communities presentation with the minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group meeting.

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### **11.02 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

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Kelly King noted an International Women's Day event on Sunday 8 March 2020 and Him in Heels on Wednesday, 4 March 2020 and encouraged participation.

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The meeting closed at 10:00am.