

**PRESENT**

***Members:***

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

***Other Attendees:***

Rebecca Olsen (A/General Manager)  
Duncan Coulton (A/Director Strategy and Growth)  
Liesa Davies (Group Manager Economic & Cultural Development)  
David Archer (Senior Economic Development Officer)

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The meeting opened at 8:32am.

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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 apology received from Kelly King 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 10 June 2020 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**

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**CONSENSUS:**

That the Business Arising schedule be noted with the following additional information:

Item 08 - remove, with EDSG to be involved in future Community Strategic Plan engagement when scheduled.

Item 07 (COVID Impact - insights to date) be addressed under item 06 of this meeting.

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### **06 BUSHFIRES AND COVID-19: IMPACTS AND RECOVERY UPDATE**

Council's Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development provided an update, noting bushfire recovery projects continue to proceed with support from NSW and Australian Government funding. Council awaits further information on Stream 2 of the NSW Bushfire Recovery Funding, which is yet to be announced.

A snapshot of key insights from the National Skills Commission "Snapshot in Time" report on the labour market and COVID-19 was discussed, and other recent trending data regarding the impact of COVID-19 on business.

<https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/snapshot-time-report>

The Group expressed concerns for local business impact when jobkeeper payments end, deferred payments due, or should a 'second wave' of COVID-19 hit NSW. Development Application processing time was discussed with Michelle Love expressing concern that timeframes have slowed and she encouraged Council to progress the system to prioritise and 'keep things moving'. The Group questioned the status of consideration of the 'red tape' feedback which had been provided to the former General Manager as part of the COVID-19 Recovery Working Group discussions.

Kellon Beard talked positively to Council's policy response to COVID-19, highlighting the Local Preference Policy and temporary changes in response to the crisis stood out in local government. A/GM committed to provide data on Council's Tendering Local Preference

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Policy to the next meeting of the EDSG.

CONSENSUS:

That the Group:

1. Note the updates on recent bushfire recovery initiatives and COVID-19 impact and response.
2. Agree regular updates be presented to continue monitoring of impacts and initiatives.
3. Note staff will review and discuss the Recovery Working Group suggestions to reduce red tape at a future meeting.
4. Request further information on the Tendering Local Preference Policy to be discussed at the next meeting.

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## **07 BRING YOUR OWN JOB/BUSINESS - ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT, JOBS GROWTH AND RELOCATION**

Council's Senior Economic Development Officer briefed the Group on Council's recent approach to content development and marketing, to encourage relocation and investment in our region. The Group noted recent heightened conversations around the ability to work from home and remotely and the opportunity to continue to encourage relocation, bring your own job/business, or invest in our region.

In viewing the most recent relocation video developed by Council and marketing planned via our council and tourism websites and tourism social media, it was suggested staff focus on increased sharing via LinkedIn and continue to push the message of the ease of the commute to Sydney etc (acknowledging recent flight reductions). Cr Hawkins also noted the potential opportunities to garner support from the Town Centre Master Plan Committee if there was potential to drive investment in new CBD businesses.

Members were referred to the Destination and Council websites for more examples of relocation video stories and also the Live Grow Be investment prospectus:

<https://portmacquarieinfo.com.au/information/live-work-invest-here>

<https://www.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/Business/Doing-Business-Here/Business-Investment-and-Lifestyle>

CONSENSUS:

That the Group note the update on recent relocation/investment opportunity and activity.

**08 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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Nil.

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The meeting closed at 9:50am.