

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

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

**Other Attendees:**

Acting General Manager (Jeffery Sharp)  
Acting Director Strategy and Growth (Liesa Davies)  
Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development (Amanda Hatton)  
Senior Economic Development Officer (David Archer)  
Group Manager Financial Services (Nicole Spencer)  
Strategic Procurement Manager (Inez Young)

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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 Peter Halliwell 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 8 July 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 06 (Bushfire and Covid-19: Impacts and Recovery Update) be addressed under items 07 and 09 of this meeting.
- The Smart Community Roadmap discussion be addressed under item 06 of this meeting.
- A discussion on red tape will be tabled at a future meeting.

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### **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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CONSENSUS:

That standing orders be suspended to allow Item 09 to be brought forward and considered next to allow guests to present to the meeting.

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## **09 LOCAL PROCUREMENT UPDATE**

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The Strategic Procurement Manager presented an overview on Council's Local Preference Policy that is applied to tender submissions. It was noted that a 5% comparative reduction for local suppliers (capped to \$25K) which is normally applied for local tenderers has been increased to 20% (capped at \$50K) for a period of six months from 16 April 2020 to support local businesses during COVID-19.

Other initiatives such as publishing Council's Forward Procurement plan, replacing Tenderlink with a more user-friendly "E-procure" platform and encouraging local suppliers to register for opportunities to do business with Council were also tabled along with statistics from the past two years demonstrating an increase in the number of local tenders being received and awarded.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note the measures implemented with an aim to support local business by increasing procurement from local suppliers.

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## **06 SMART COMMUNITY ROADMAP**

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The Group discussed the recently developed draft Smart Community Roadmap being presented to the 12 August 2020 meeting of Council for endorsement before being placed on public exhibition for feedback.

It was noted that significant engagement was undertaken in developing the draft Roadmap which will form the first step in the journey of three distinct phases as detailed within the document.

A discussion was had around detailed actions not being defined within the draft Roadmap. It was noted that the Roadmap, being the first step in the smart community journey, aims to lay the foundations of our approach and support Council and the community in identifying and responding to opportunities to generate smart outcomes..

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group:

1. Endorse the draft Port Macquarie-Hastings Smart Community Roadmap that will be presented to the 12 August Council 2020 meeting, recommending it be placed on public exhibition.
2. Consider further review of the draft during the exhibition period, with feedback encouraged via Council's Have Your Say website or to the Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development.

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

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The Acting Director Strategy and Growth presented an update on the Federal and State funded bushfire recover projects underway (both community and Council-led projects) and the recommendations being presented to the 12 August 2020 meeting of Council for funding of COVID-19 stimulus/recovery initiatives. It was noted that the COVID-19 financial relief measures that were adopted in April 2020 by Council and are due to end on 10 October 2020 will be considered at the 23 September 2020 Council meeting.

The Senior Economic Development Officer provided an update on the recent 'Reboot, Refresh, Relaunch' pop-up sessions in Port Macquarie, Laurieton and Wauchope. The initiative was well received with strong uptake at the Justin Herald Webinar (23 attendees), individual profile picture sessions (12 registered in Port Macquarie, 5 registered in Wauchope and 5 registered in Laurieton), and local businesses engaged to utilise unbooked photo sessions (6 businesses in Wauchope and 5 businesses in Laurieton).

Data from Business NSW's recent Business Recovery Survey was also tabled along with an overview of the 10 Business Recovery Drivers which have been identified in their '[Back on Track](#)' report.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note the updates on bushfire recovery initiatives and COVID-19 impact and response.

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## **08 UPDATE FROM CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY ON LOCAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19**

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Charles Sturt University's Director of External Engagement presented an update to the Group on the impacts of COVID-19 on the Port Macquarie campus and the University more broadly. Such impacts included a significant budget deficit forecast for the University, extended online learning for students with face to face classes not resuming before next year, and the removal of certain course offerings from the University's programmes.

The Group discussed that whilst the impacts of COVID-19 have been detrimental to the University, it was positive to note the continued progress of Stage 2A and the new student accommodation for the Port Macquarie campus to increase future student capacity, along with confirmation that all courses at the Port Macquarie campus are being retained.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group note the update on impacts of COVID-19 on Charles Sturt University.

Item 09 Local Procurement Update, has been addressed previously within the meeting.

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**10 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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**10.01 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

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The Acting Director Strategy and Growth advised that Council is currently conducting a range of community engagement workshops which will guide the development of the next Community Strategic Plan. The 'Think 2050' workshop for Economic, Development and Growth is being held at 12pm on Wednesday 18 August 2020 with members encouraged to participate.

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**10.02 PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS BUSINESS CONFIDENCE SURVEY**

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The Acting Director Strategy and Growth advised that the annual Port Macquarie-Hastings Business Confidence Survey is now open until 31 August 2020.

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The meeting closed at 10:02am.