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**PRESENT**

**Members:**

Councillor Rob Turner (Chair)  
Councillor Geoff Hawkins (Deputy Chair)  
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)  
Peter Halliwell (Community Representative)  
Jane Evans (Community Representative)  
Michelle Love (Community Representative)  
Kellon Beard (Community Representative)

**Other Attendees:**

Acting General Manager (Jeffery Sharp)  
Acting Director Strategy & Growth (Liesa Davies)  
Acting Group Manager Economic & Cultural Development (Amanda Hatton)  
Senior Economic Development Officer (David Archer)  
Group Manager Development Assessment (Dan Croft)

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The meeting opened at 8:31am.

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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 12 August 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 a discussion on red tape to 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 07 to be brought forward and considered next to allow guests to present to the meeting.

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### **07 DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE**

The Group Manager Development Assessment presented an overview of the development activity for the April to June 2020 quarter. Despite COVID-19 impacts it was noted that activity is still progressing well and the statistics from the last quarter, along with current trends from the first two months of the new financial year, are encouraging.

The Group Manager Development Assessment answered questions from the Group in regards to the data presented. It was also acknowledged that whilst the Development Assessment team have been largely working from home since COVID-19, it has been a seamless transition from a customer experience perspective.

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CONSENSUS:

That the Economic Development Steering Group note the Development Assessment activity for the April to June 2020 quarter.

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

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The Acting Director Strategy and Growth noted that following the adoption of COVID-19 recovery and stimulus projects at the August 2020 meeting of Council, the COVID-19 Working Group and Sub-Groups have now formally concluded. It was discussed that commencement and delivery of the range of adopted projects is now being implemented with the completion of these projects due by 30 June 2021. Council will also consider a further report on the potential extension of COVID Relief Measures (financial relief for residents and businesses) at the 23 September Council meeting.

The proposal to move from monthly to quarterly reporting on the implementation of these projects to the Group to allow for an all-encompassing update on key milestones was also discussed and agreed.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Economic Development Steering Group:

1. Note the updates on bushfire recovery initiatives and COVID-19 impact and response.
2. Agree quarterly updates, commencing in November 2020, be provided to the Group on the progress of recovery projects.

Item 07 Development Activity Update, has been addressed previously within the meeting.

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## **08 UPDATE ON LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT AND NETWORKS**

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Council's Senior Economic Development Officer presented the new Business Portal brochure detailing local business advisory services and networks available to businesses within our region. It was noted that these services are particularly important and in demand by local businesses operators at this point in time as they recover from the impacts of the bushfires and COVID-19.

The role of Council in connecting entrepreneurs to other stakeholders and creating awareness around a range of support opportunities was discussed.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Economic Development Steering Group note and promote the range of business networks and business advisory services available within the Port Macquarie-Hastings region, and encourage the business community to access services, join networking opportunities to foster a supportive and resilient community.

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**09 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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**09.1 INFRASTRUCTURE ITEMS**

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Peter Halliwell enquired on the progress of larger infrastructure items being delivered or proposed for future delivery within the community.

The Acting General Manager provided an update on a range of Council projects.

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**09.02 CAMDEN HAVEN GIFT CARD**

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Stuart Bate updated the Group on the success to date of the Camden Haven Gift Card initiative that was recently launched to support local business.

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The meeting closed at 9:48am.