

**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)  
Hadyn Oriti (Community Representative)  
Jane Evans (Community Representative)  
Michelle Love (Community Representative)  
Kellon Beard (Community Representative)

**Other Attendees:**

Chief Executive Officer (Dr Clare Allen)  
Director Community Utilities (Jeffery Sharp)  
Director Community, Planning and Environment (Mellissa Watkins)  
Acting Group Manager Economic and Cultural Development (Kelly Mapleston)  
Destination and Cultural Development Manager (Jane Ellis)  
Senior Economic Development Officer (David Archer)  
Economic Development Officer (Marissa Clift)  
Executive Assistant to the CEO (Allanah O’Gorman)  
Marisha Ewart (Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce President)

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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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Nil.

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**03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

CONSENSUS:

That the Minutes of the Economic Development Steering Group Meeting held on 22 September 2021 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**

CONSENSUS:

That the Business Arising from Previous Minutes schedule be noted.

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**06 COVID-19 IMPACTS UPDATE**

Council's Economic Development Officer provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Port Macquarie-Hastings workforce and economy.

The Destination and Cultural Development Manager provided further insights into the volatile period experienced in the local region's tourism industry. EDSG noted the presentation, and agreed that analysis of future quarters will continue to be valuable.

CONSENSUS:

That the Economic Development Steering Group note and discuss the update on the impact of COVID-19 on our local workforce and economy.

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## **07 COVID-19 CHALLENGES FOR BUSINESS AND THE LOCAL RESPONSE**

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Council's Senior Economic Development Officer provided an overview of current and potential future challenges for local businesses as NSW continues through the NSW Reopening Roadmap, and a brief insight into the range of support Council and other levels of government are currently delivering to support business through this period. The Destination and Cultural Development Manager provided an overview of an upcoming PR campaign to encourage visitors to our region to be patient with local staff and businesses.

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Economic Development Steering Group note and discuss current and potential future challenges for local business as we move through the NSW Reopening Roadmap.

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## **08 GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **08.01 COUNCIL REALIGNMENT**

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At the request of Councillor Robert Turner, Council CEO Dr Clare Allen provided an overview of the organisational realignment

### **CONSENSUS:**

That the Group endorses the CEO's review of Council service levels, and supports the proposed realignment.

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### **08.02 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ON EXHIBITION**

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The Draft 2022-2032 Economic Development Strategy is on exhibition from Monday 18 October to Friday 17 December. EDSG and the community are encouraged to make a submission via Council's Have Your Say page here:

<https://haveyoursay.pmhc.nsw.gov.au/draft-2022-32-economic-development-strategy>

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**08.03 FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP MEETINGS**

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The date for the next EDSG meeting is to be confirmed: a new Council will look at sub-committees and dates for meetings in early 2022.

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**08.04 APPRECIATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILLORS**

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Noting that they do not intend to run for Council in the upcoming elections, the Group thanked Councillors Robert Turner and Geoff Hawkins for their time chairing the Steering Group.

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The meeting closed at 9:48am.