

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 30 November 2016
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.00 pm

The following members were present:

Mr John Lamont – Chairperson
Clr Amanda Findley – left 4.40pm
Clr Joanna Gash
Clr John Wells
Clr Patricia White
Clr John Levett
Clr Mitchell Pakes
Clr Mark Kitchener – arrived 4.05pm
Clr Greg Watson
Clr Bob Proudfoot
Mr David Goodman
Ms Teresa Bourke – for Robbie Collins
Mr Adrian Stam
Mr Steven Bayer
Ms Lexie Meyer
Ms Donna Payne – for Paul Goodwin
Mr Peter Dryer
Mr Russ Pigg – General Manager

Others Present:

Mr Greg Pullen - Economic Development Manager
Mr Tim Fletcher – Director Planning and Development Services
Ms Marianne Jones – Economic Development Officer
Ms Cathy Bern – Development Services Section Manager

Note: The Business and Employment Development Committee reaffirmed that John Lamont remain the Chairperson of the Committee.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Alldrick, Clr Cheyne, Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Fiona Hatcher and James Coburn.

Confirmation of the Minutes**RESOLVED** (David Goodman / Clr Wells)

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Business and Employment Development Committee held on Wednesday 25 May 2016 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil

REPORTS**BE16.8 Development in the Shoalhaven - Significant Projects****HPERM Ref:
D16/346341**

Cathy Bern advised that the spreadsheets provided are a snapshot of all the developments that are approved and in the system. Please note that this is not necessarily what has been built or currently under construction.

The Business and Employment Development Committee requested that those that are under construction could be highlighted in a separate spreadsheet and advised that the Committee would benefit from being advised of the reasons of why those Development Applications are stalled and are remaining inactive i.e. needing further assistance. Cathy Bern advised that Commercial Developers may have in confidence reasons for not wanting to explain their reasons.

Note: Clr Kitchener arrived, the time being 4.06pm.

The Committee asked whether it would be possible to merge the information provided with the report regarding Employment Activity e.g. at the Race track.

The Committee requested the list to be more comprehensive and include Development Applications that were activated over 20-25years old, e.g. Children's Child Care Centre at Cunjurong Point, the Community Swimming Pool, Children at Risk Developments etc.

Planning and Development Services are receiving close to 3,000 Development Applications per annum. This makes it difficult to isolate that data. This spreadsheet provided is a historic spreadsheet. The Committee were encouraged to let Development Services staff know any that they are aware of that could be added.

The Committee discussed the equity of fees and charges across Subdivision Applications in relation to 64 and 94 contributions. The Committee were advised that Developers are made aware of what the fees will be when they lodge the applications. Shoalhaven City Council also relies on the good faith of the applicant. There will be variations due to locations and individual circumstances.

Clr Wells requested that Hawthorn Ave be clarified as the value stated is \$48mil.

Shoalhaven City Council are not advised of those that are lodged straight through the Department of Planning, however, with respect to information the Committee is seeking i.e. the Development Applications that are being stalled, most of these applications are from Manildra and most are in motion and under construction.

Future development and employment trends could be beneficial to the Committee if these could be correlated and calculated.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That:

1. The report of the General Manager (Planning and Development Services) regarding the update on development 'in the Shoalhaven be received for information.
2. Consideration be given to the information presented to the Committee with a view to informing staff accordingly.

RESOLVED (Clr Wells / Clr White)

That:

1. The report of the General Manager (Planning and Development Services) regarding the update on development 'in the Shoalhaven be received for information.
2. Staff take on board comments made for future reports.

CARRIED

BE16.1 Economic Update and Employment Land Activity

**HPERM Ref:
D16/351798**

Greg Pullen, Economic Development Manager advised that these spreadsheets are provided as a snapshot of the current employment industry. There are statistics that date back to 1984 that are available.

Although the unemployment rate is consistently high, the youth unemployment statistics are not as readily available, however a reason behind our youth employment being higher than the NSW average is that Shoalhaven youth tend to remain in the area.

The Shoalhaven population growth is about 1.2%, the employment is growing at 2.1% steadily.

With Government Capex the decline shown between 2011 and 2012 was predicted 18 months prior. There is another decline that is predicted for 2019-2020, this is to be monitored.

It was advised that Shoalhaven City Council has made an application to buy Crown Land at Ulladulla, this has been stalled due to Aboriginal land claim resolution.

Greg Pullen advised that most employment land purchases are local i.e. renters that are looking to buy, others are companies from TAS, Sydney and Wollongong in the manufacturing, distribution or service industry.

The Committee enquired whether statistics are available for future trends in regard to population increases and the impact on the economy? Greg Pullen advised that between 2006 and 2008 with the GFC growth slowed, and the economy is now increasing again, and, land releases would accelerate. Tim Fletcher advised that the increased rate of lot releases within the last 12 months is drastic and has not seen before, this is reflected through the population increase. The lot release applications are higher than dwelling applications.

There are no statistics for under-employment or casual employment.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report by the Economic Development Manager on Economic trends and employment land activity be received for information.

RESOLVED (Peter Dryer / Lexie Meyer)

That the report by the Economic Development Manager on Economic trends and employment land activity be received for information.

CARRIED

BE16.2 Business Development Program - Economic Development Office**HPERM Ref:
D16/354490****Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the report on the Business Development Program co-ordinated by the Economic Development Office be received for information.

RESOLVED (Clr Wells / Clr Findley)

That the report on the Business Development Program co-ordinated by the Economic Development Office be received for information.

CARRIED

BE16.3 School to Work Transition Programs**HPERM Ref:
D16/354634****Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the report on the School to Work Transition Programs be received for information.

RESOLVED (Steven Bayer / Clr Wells)

That the report on the School to Work Transition Programs be received for information.

CARRIED

BE16.4 Nowra Buskers Series and Nowra CBD Street Flags in Jelly Bean Park**HPERM Ref:
D16/354599**

It was advised that the Nowra Makers Markets are not run by Shoalhaven City Council, it is run by East Nowra Pride but hosted by Shoalhaven City Council in Jelly Bean Park.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the Nowra Buskers Series in Jelly Bean Park be received for information.

RESOLVED (Clr Gash / Clr White)

That the report on the Nowra Buskers Series in Jelly Bean Park be received for information.

CARRIED

BE16.5 Major Grant Applications by Council**HPERM Ref:
D16/354555**

It was advised that following an unsuccessful application for "Beyond Nerriga" Transport for NSW sought greater detail regarding construction regime, implementation and knowledge of freight, origins and destinations. Goulburn Mulwaree Council and Shoalhaven City Council were provided advance notice of the 2017 grant rounds and were requested to submit an application.

Note: Clr Findley left the meeting, the time being, 4.40pm

Council is addressing the situation by the elimination of the 15t limit by working with Goulburn Mulwaree Council on a submission for grant funding.

There is also a new developer of an industry in the Bomaderry Region which is estimated to move

50-100t per week from the MIA.

The works on Turpentine Road are virtually complete.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on HVSP, Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail be received for information.

RESOLVED (Lexie Meyer / David Goodman)

That the report on HVSP, Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail be received for information.

CARRIED

BE16.6 South Nowra Freight Corridor Upgrade

**HPERM Ref:
D16/354662**

The road works at South Nowra have experienced a major upgrade and the utility relocations by NBN or Telstra commenced last week. In 2017 construction works will increase and be completed in 2017.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the South Nowra Freight Corridor Upgrade be received for information

RESOLVED (Peter Dryer / Lexie Meyer)

That the report on the South Nowra Freight Corridor Upgrade be received for information

CARRIED

BE16.7 BioMarine 2016

**HPERM Ref:
D16/361871**

Shoalhaven City has a product that will be on the shelf in the USA in the early New Year. Most of the other countries involved are still at the developing and researching phase. The Shoalhaven however, does not have enough capacity to produce the algae. The solution is to build a larger plant further out towards Shoalhaven Heads.

It was advised that employment has increased from 1 person to 5 already at Venus Shell Systems.

John Lamont advised that two staff had jointly finished degrees, one at honours level and the other at PhD level.

It is estimated in early January product will be sent overseas and in the long-term will create 2 new jobs.

The Blue Bio Tech project is progressing significantly.

The base production is still in measurements of kilograms per month in, however, in the future this will be tonnes per month.

Note: Clr Kitchener, left the meeting, the time being 4.52pm.

Another company at South Nowra is producing tablets from algae and another in Bomaderry is polishing the tablets.

In Oslo Greg Pullen met with someone who was able to produce Omega 3 (usually in liquid form) into powder and therefore tablet form. The Blue Bio Tech Group sought to manufacture under license for the Australian and US Market . There are five people at the Essence Group.

A report will be submitted to Council within the first quarter on the progress of Blue Bio Tech.

Note: Cllr Kitchener returned to the meeting, the time being 4.54.

The result is employment growth across 4-5 businesses.

The Bank identified in the report that is interested in investing in the project is the Norwegian National Bank, this bank understands the need to invest in aquaculture.

Recommendation

Resolve that

- a.
 - i. The report of the Economic Development Manager on the attendance by representatives of Blue BioTech Shoalhaven to BioMarine 2016 in Oslo be accepted.
 - ii. Council congratulate Blue BioTech Shoalhaven on the initiative being shown to develop a new innovative industry sector based on aquatic biotechnology here in the Shoalhaven.
 - iii. The Economic Development Office submit an application to host a future BioMarine in Shoalhaven, if considered feasible to achieve a break even result.

Recommend to Council

- b.
 - i. That it adopt a "Small Business Lens" on the development of future policies and the renewal of existing policies as they fall due.

Recommendation (Cllr Wells / Lexie Meyer)

That

1. The report of the Economic Development Manager on the attendance by representatives of Blue BioTech Shoalhaven to BioMarine 2016 in Oslo be accepted.
2. Council congratulate Blue BioTech Shoalhaven on the initiative being shown to develop a new innovative industry sector based on aquatic biotechnology here in the Shoalhaven.
3. The Economic Development Office submit an application to host a future BioMarine conference in Shoalhaven, if considered feasible to achieve a break even result.
4. Council adopt a "Small Business Lens" on the development of future policies and the renewal of existing policies as they fall due.

CARRIED

BE16.8 Development In The Shoalhaven - Significant Projects

**HPERM REF:
D16/346341**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

BE16.9 Motorcycle NSW

Clr Gash advised that herself and Clr White were invited and attended the Motorcycle NSW event in Penrith. The doors were closed when the capacity reached 520 people and the wait list was above the 600 mark. The ages of participants were 5years upwards. Clr Gash commented on their appearance i.e. each had a suit and neat hair. Clr Gash suggested that some of those participants be invited to the meetings regarding the Yerriyong Motor Sport Complex.

BE16.10 Shoalhaven Business Chamber Business Chamber of the Year 2016

Russ Pigg advised it was reported in the South Coast Register that the Shoalhaven Business Chamber was named Business Chamber of the Year at the 2016 State Business Gala Awards.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Business and Employment Development Committee congratulate the Shoalhaven Business Chamber on their efforts and that they be commended.

CARRIED

BE16.11 Yerriyong Motor Sport Complex Update

It was advised that the Yerriyong Motor Sport Complex would be reported back to the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) in early 2017. A meeting was held with the consultant and the Office of Environment and Heritage regarding information that the JRPP had requested in relation to the flora and fauna impact. After all the information has been received by Shoalhaven City Council staff, a supplementary report will be submitted to the JRPP including the new information and a date will be scheduled for the JRPP to make a decision.

BE16.12 Regional Development Australia - South Coast Skills Audit

Regional Development Australia (RDA) has conducted a South Coast Skills Audit. The audit provides information of the extent of current skills shortages and the future needs of the South Coast. A report will be available prior to Christmas and will be electronically sent to members of the Business and Employment Development Committee.

BE16.13 South Coast Youth Leadership Awards

The South Coast Youth Leadership Awards were held in October and were successful. John Lamont thanked the Economic Development Team including Marianne Jones who organised the meeting rooms and lunches. John Lamont also thanked the Mayor for addressing the young leaders. John believes it is a success due to the strong input from Shoalhaven City Council.

BE16.14 Changes to TAFE NSW

For 25 years regionally based TAFEs have been independent and this model is now being disbanded. There will be changes state wide. This will include a promotional campaign and rebranding of TAFE as one entity. It will be a while before significant changes seen. Private providers competed with TAFE previously and there were different courses, units etc. being provided for the same qualification. Now if an NRMA employee undertakes a TAFE training course it will be the same course and units across the state that is provided.

BE16.15 Business Development Strategy Press Release

The Deputy Premier has created a press release regarding the new/revised Business Development Strategy and this will be reported to the Business and Employment Development Committee.

Note: John Lamont, Chairperson wished members and those present a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.13pm.

John Lamont
CHAIRPERSON