

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 27 February 2019
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:02pm

The following members were present:

Mr John Lamont – Chairperson
Clr Kitchener (left 4.47pm)
Clr Digiglio (arrived 4.10pm)
Mr Russ Pigg – General Manager
Mr Robert Crow – representing Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group
Ms Kate Morris – representing TAFE NSW
Ms Jemma Tribe – representing Shoalhaven Business Chamber
Ms Anna Finch – representing Shoalhaven Professional Business Association
Ms Lexie Meyer (arrived 4.15pm)
Ms Alison Chiam (arrived 4.42pm) – representing Shoalhaven Arts Board

Others present:

Ms Marianne Jones – Economic Development Officer
Mr Darryl Anderson – TAFE NSW
Mr James Bonner – Unit Manager, Development Services
Mr Stephen Dunshea – Director, Finance, Corporate and Community Services

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Gash, Peter Masterson, Donna Payne, Mary-Jean Lewis, Paul Keith, David Goodman, Fiona Hatcher and Milton Ulladulla Business Chamber.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / Robert Crow)

That the Minutes of the Business and Employment Development Committee held on Wednesday 21 November 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

REPORTS

BE19.4 Development in Shoalhaven - Significant Projects**HPERM Ref:
D18/431826**

James Bonner, Acting Section Manager, spoke to the report. He noted that a number of developments had progressed, showing that development consent for significant projects can be idle for a number of years before being activated, eventually leading to employment opportunities.

James advised that the second table includes more recent developments still under assessment and includes the Bunnings development and highway service centre at Bomaderry.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report of the General Manager (Planning Environment & Development Services) regarding the update on development in Shoalhaven be received for information.

RESOLVED (John Lamont / Lexie Meyer)

That the report of the General Manager (Planning Environment & Development Services) regarding the update on development in Shoalhaven be received for information.

CARRIED

BE19.1 Influence of Major Government CapEx on Shoalhaven Economy**HPERM Ref: D19/2794**

Marianne Jones spoke to the report.

The General Manager noted that the Economic Development Office uses this graph to lobby State and Federal agencies and Ministers.

Clr Digiglio noted the Hospital Plan and the difficulty attracting neurologists to the hospital due to a lack of a nuclear medicine facility.

Lexie Meyer sought clarification about resourcing and Part 3 of the recommendation as printed.

It was noted that the recent Service Reviews of the Economic Development Office and Tourism Section looked at strengths and gaps in service.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That

1. The Business & Employment Development Committee accepts the report of the Economic Development Office into the influence and effect of attracting major Government budget allocations for infrastructure developments in Shoalhaven,
2. The Business & Employment Development Committee congratulate Council on its pro-active approach to achieving infrastructure development through presenting well sounded cases and lobbying hard for the implementation of improvements to assets such as the Princes Highway and the Shoalhaven Health Precinct, the establishment of the Shoalhaven Education Campus and the South Coast Correctional Centre and the expansion of HMAS Albatross as a major Australian Defence base,
3. The Business & Employment Development Committee urges Council to continue to provide dedicated resources, both labour and financial, to prepare business cases for the improvement of critical infrastructure to bring about the growth of the Shoalhaven.

RESOLVED (Lexie Meyer / Anna Finch)

That

1. The Business & Employment Development Committee accepts the report of the Economic Development Office into the influence and effect of attracting major Government budget allocations for infrastructure developments in Shoalhaven,
2. The Business & Employment Development Committee congratulate Council on its pro-active approach to achieving infrastructure development through presenting well sounded cases and lobbying hard for the implementation of improvements to assets such as the Princes Highway and the Shoalhaven Health Precinct, the establishment of the Shoalhaven Education Campus and the South Coast Correctional Centre and the expansion of HMAS Albatross as a major Australian Defence base,
3. The Business & Employment Development Committee urges Council to continue to provide dedicated resources, both labour and financial, to prepare business cases for the improvement of critical infrastructure to bring about the growth of the Shoalhaven.

CARRIED

BE19.2 School to Industry Update

**HPERM Ref:
D19/37493**

Marianne Jones spoke to the report and noted that:

- The Teacher to Industry Tour and Defence Industry Tour may be alternated in future years.
- The University of Wollongong Shoalhaven Campus careers expo is to be held on 2 July 2019.

John Lamont noted that the combined Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group and Shoalhaven Business Chamber stand at the Nowra Show won Best Stand in Show. John thanked the Chair of the Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group for promoting Shoalhaven job opportunities at the Nowra Show.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the School to Industry program be received for information.

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / Kate Morris)

That the report on the School to Industry program be received for information.

CARRIED

BE19.3 Business Training Update

**HPERM Ref:
D19/37779**

Marianne Jones spoke to the report and noted that Illawarra iTeC will run the Certificate IV in Leadership and Management again this year.

Members asked about participation rates and were advised:

- Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre seminars attract up to eight participants. The Federal Government supported places. It was noted that the focus of training was on the NDIS and some business owners may not see the opportunities.
- The Business Sessions run by Sue Brodie were well received and attract between eight to 16 participants. Topics included social media platforms and human resources.

Clr Digiglio noted initiatives for Allied Health Professionals to work with the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association (SPBA) as a chapter of SPBA.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on Business Training and capacity building opportunities that are co-ordinated and/or supported by the Economic Development Office be received for information.

RESOLVED (Robert Crow / Kate Morris)

That the report on Business Training and capacity building opportunities that are co-ordinated and/or supported by the Economic Development Office be received for information.

CARRIED

BE19.4 DEVELOPMENT IN SHOALHAVEN - SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS

**HPERM REF:
D18/431826**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

BE19.5 Shoalhaven Business Chamber MoU Report

**HPERM Ref:
D19/44476**

Jemma Tribe spoke to the report and noted that:

- There were limited tickets to the Twilight Garden Party at Merribee with a guest speaker.
- Lunch and Learn continues one a month, this month in partnership with AusIndustry on 28 February.
- Advanced Marketing Strategies a focus for this year's Lunch and Learn series.
- The Super Dinner and Safe Work NSW workshop were both well attended. Jemma acknowledged the Safe Work sponsorship of Shoalhaven Business Awards. This resulted in the Safe Work workshop attracting the highest number of participants than other areas around the State.
- There are four project proposals to Regional Development Australia, including a project to transform Nowra office into a digital business hub.
- The Women's Conference will be held in May.

Lexie asked whether the format of the Women's Conference would remain on presentations or whether there would be a shift towards more of a workshop style. Jemma advised that there are ongoing talks about the format and content.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee notes this report for information.

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / Lexie Meyer)

That the Committee notes this report for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

BE19.6 Additional item - Information Updates from Members

John Lamont – less than significant non pecuniary interest declaration – John is the Chair of TAFE South Regional Advisory Committee. Remained in the room and took part in discussion and voted.

Kate Morris of TAFE NSW introduced Darryl Anderson of TAFE, tabled some flyers (attached) and advised:

- TAFE Institutes have been disbanded to form a single TAFE that can use resources from around the State.
- Kate covers student and stakeholder engagement from Nowra to Eden.
- TAFE will develop customised, place-based delivery of courses and is working with local businesses and business chamber to develop and deliver necessary training.
- A lot of courses are being offered in Nowra. Some are fee-free and other places are supported by NSW Government Smart & Skilled Funding.
- Free training for business owners employing less than 200 staff under “Skills for Business” as part of the Certificate IV in Small Business. It will be delivered online and participants can enrol in one or two subjects or the whole qualification.

Clr Digiglio noted improved staff retention where they are trained in place.

Anna Finch of the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association (SPBA) noted:

- SPBA has been running for 10 years and the mentoring program is in its sixth year, with great feedback from participants.
- SPBA has an MoU with Council to deliver bi-monthly business networking breakfast and business snapshot program. At the latest breakfast John Lamont Snr was the guest speaker, interviewed by Grant Gleeson.
- A current project of SPBA is to map the life cycle of a professional in the Shoalhaven to look at resources available to professionals and where there might be gaps.

Robert Crow of the Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group acknowledged Council receiving a State level award for tourism campaign – the Shoalhaven 100 Beach Challenge, with the National Awards being held this week.

Stephen noted the impact of tourism on local infrastructure and that the 360 Model captures the impact on amenity as well as visitation numbers. He also noted that Council is looking at grant opportunities to improve tourism infrastructure and acknowledged the support of the Economic Development Office.

Jemma Tribe noted the Airbnb statistics and how they will support hotel chains to develop in the Shoalhaven.

Lexie Meyer noted that the Dunn Lewis Centre had received enquiries for weddings of 300-400 people.

Robert Crow noted the Archer Resort development and addition of Quest Apartments to accommodation options in Nowra.

Alison Chaim of the Shoalhaven Arts Board noted:

- Six community members received Australia Day Awards.
- The Arts Board is seeking sponsors for the NOW ContempoRAry Arts Awards, which is a national arts prize. Sponsorship details will be circulated.

Robert added that the Shoalhaven Arts Board has \$9,000 in grants of up to \$3,000 for professional artist development.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.24pm.

Mr John Lamont
CHAIRPERSON