

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 22 August 2018
Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4:00pm

The following members were present:

Mr John Lamont – Regional Development Australia – Chairperson
Clr Amanda Findley (left 5pm)
Clr Patricia White
Clr Joanna Gash
Clr Nina Cheyne
Mr Russ Pigg – General Manager
Mr Tony Emery – representing Mr Gareth Ward MP
Ms Alison Chiam – Shoalhaven Arts Board
Mr Robert Crow – Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group
Ms Deb Langton – President, Shoalhaven Business Chamber
Mr David Goodman – Shoalhaven Business Chamber
Ms Fiona Hatcher – Regional Development Australia
Mr Steven Bayer – Shoalhaven Professional Business Association
Mr Peter Masterson – Department of Industry, Innovation & Science
Ms Lexie Meyer

Others present:

Mary-Jean Lewis – Ardent Lawyers
Steve Prothero
Cathy Bern – Section Manager, Development Services (left 4.20pm)
Stephen Dunshea – Director, Finance, Corporate and Community Services
Coralie Bell – Acting Section Manager, Recreation, Community & Culture
Marianne Jones – Acting Manager, Economic Development

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed Mary-Jean Lewis and Steve Prothero.

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Megan Cleary, Ian Morris and Clr Pakes.

The Chairperson noted the resignation of Megan Cleary from the Committee as representative for NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Chairperson acknowledged Megan's contribution to the work of the Committee and congratulated her on her promotion to Deputy Director, Regional Development, which is based in Queanbeyan.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Clr Gash / Peter Masterson)

That the Minutes of the Business and Employment Development Committee held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

REPORTS**BE18.23 Development in Shoalhaven - Significant Projects****HPERM Ref:**
D18/264258

Cathy Bern spoke to the report.

Notable developments include:

- Manyana subdivision – Council is in receipt of construction certificates.
- Graham Street Unit complex.
- 154 lot subdivision for Worrigea – this matter is currently in Court.
- Anson St – this matter is also in Court.
- A child care centre at South Nowra which was approved on 21 August.
- A service station with truck parking and truck wash bay at South Nowra.

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 (David Goodman / Tony Emery)

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

CARRIED

BE18.18 Growing Local Economies Fund**HPERM Ref:**
D18/266126

The General Manager and Marianne Jones spoke to the report.

Marianne advised that the business case for Ulladulla Harbour Berths has progressed and that Woollamia Commercial Boating Infrastructure will be next.

The General Manager noted that the total value of projects for the Employment Lands Project is substantial (\$24 million).

Marianne noted further that:

- A Traffic Engineer is doing some modelling for ENSA; and
- Council is currently advertising for a Grants Officer.

The General Manager thanked the representative for Gareth Ward MP for the State funding received.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on Shoalhaven City Council's response to the Growing Local Economies Fund be received for information.

RESOLVED (Deb Langton / Tony Emery)

That the report on Shoalhaven City Council's response to the Growing Local Economies Fund be received for information.

CARRIED

**BE18.19 South Coast Beef Producers Association Inc - 2018
School Steer Spectacular****HPERM Ref:
D18/269725**

Marianne Jones spoke to the report and gave an overview of the project.

John Lamont noted that the Federal Government has extended regional and remote STEM scholarships to \$80,000 per year and that they have been extended to agriculture and sports sciences.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the 2018 School Steer Spectacular conducted by the South Coast Beef Producers Association be received for information.

RESOLVED (Lexie Meyer / Steven Bayer)

That the report on the 2018 School Steer Spectacular conducted by the South Coast Beef Producers Association be received for information.

CARRIED

**BE18.20 NSW Government's 20-Year Economic Vision for
Regional NSW****HPERM Ref:
D18/278091**

The General Manager and Marianne Jones spoke to the report.

The General Manager noted the importance of linking to State and Federal Government strategies and plans when applying for grant funding and aligning Council priorities with State and Federal strategies. Economic Development Strategy aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the NSW Government's 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW be received for information.

RESOLVED (Deb Langton / Alison Chiam)

That the report on the NSW Government's 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW be received for information.

CARRIED

BE18.21 Proudly Shoalhaven Launch**HPERM Ref:
D18/278252**

Marianne Jones spoke to the report and noted the lunchtime launch on 12 September at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre.

Marianne also spoke to one of the videos that had been created, showcasing local business Air Affairs. The videos, case studies and brochures will be presented at the launch and available on Council's website.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on Economic Development Communication and Marketing Update be received for information.

RESOLVED (David Goodman / Lexie Meyer)

That the report on Economic Development Communication and Marketing Update be received for information.

CARRIED

BE18.22 Membership - new members**HPERM Ref:
D18/237405**

John Lamont suggested that Kate Morris, the new TAFE representative, be invited to the next meeting to attend to inform committee of TAFE changes in 2019.

Recommendation

That:

1. The report outlining the new representatives for Shoalhaven Secondary Schools and TAFE NSW be received for information.
2. [Insert name] be appointed as the community member representative, and the other applicant be thanked for their application and interest.

RECOMMENDATION (Tony Emery / David Goodman)

That:

1. The report outlining the new representatives for Shoalhaven Secondary Schools and TAFE NSW be received for information.
2. Mary-Jean Lewis and Steve Prothero be appointed as community member representatives.

CARRIED

BE18.23 DEVELOPMENT IN SHOALHAVEN - SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS**HPERM REF:
D18/264258**

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

BE18.24 Shoalhaven Professional Business Association - Update on Current Activities**HPERM Ref:
D18/273162**

Steven Bayer spoke to the report.

Steven advised that the Constructive Debate held at the 2018 Mentoring Program Graduation resulted in the idea of Scores on Doors – a sticker regime for businesses to display attributes, such as the number of employees, for the public to easily see the contribution that local businesses make to the local economy.

The SPBA is looking into a Graduate Recruitment Program to match graduates with local businesses. Working on developing through SPBA and partnering with UoW and local businesses. The program will be targeted to courses currently being delivered at the University of Wollongong and local professions.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on Update of Current Activities of Shoalhaven Professional Business Association (SPBA) be received for information.

RESOLVED (Steven Bayer / Peter Masterson)

That the report on Update of Current Activities of Shoalhaven Professional Business Association (SPBA) be received for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS**BE18.25 Additional Item - Shoalhaven Business Chamber Update**

Deb Langton gave the following update on the Shoalhaven Business Chamber current activities:

- The Shoalhaven Business Awards are being held on 31 August 2018. There have been a number of new entries, including an increase in home-based businesses.
- The AGM, Forum and dinner will be held on 19 September 2018.
- The Business Chamber has renegotiated its Memorandum of Understanding with Council for the next three years. Council will be the primary partner for the Women in Business network. The next Women in Business event will be held in October.
- The Lunch and Learn program is continuing.
- Business After Hours was unfortunately cancelled last week due to the bushfires.

BE18.26 Additional Item - Regional Development Australia Update

Fiona Hatcher gave the following update from Regional Development Australia:

- Regional Development Australia has a new Committee. Clr Gash is now on the Committee and John Lamont is the Deputy Chair.
- The AGM will be held on 19 September 2018.
- The tender for a facilitator for a regional jobs trial program has closed. Fiona will forward an update when received.
- The Shoalhaven Youth Volunteer Initiative (SYVI) is working with the Rural Fire Service. High School students do nationally accredited training, which has led to some alumni obtaining employment with the Rural Fire Service and some students continuing to volunteer after the conclusion of the training.

- Funding for SYVI was cancelled in March. RDA are lobbying for an extension of funding.
- RDA is currently recruiting for a Regional Investment Officer to build capacity in Jervis Bay territory and social inclusion.

John Lamont noted the success of the SCYLF (South Coast Youth Leadership Forum) at Tuross and that the program has been extended.

BE18.27 Additional Item - AusIndustry Update

Peter Masterton gave an update from AusIndustry.

Peter advised that:

- Expressions of interest for “export hubs” were released in September and councils can apply. There are four weeks to apply.
- The Stronger Communities grants program is now open for councils.
- AusIndustry is looking for a new location for an Incubator Hub as part of the Incubator Support Program. Nowra is a possible location. Funding is one third from the applicant and two thirds from the Federal Government. Bega was the first regional location for an Incubator Hub. Applicant funding came from a partnership between Council, University of Wollongong Bega campus and Bega Cheese.

Clr Findley noted the possible utilisation of former Betta Electrical building/site for an Incubator Hub.

RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Committee form a sub-committee comprising of Fiona Hatcher, Regional Development Australia, Deb Langton, President of the Shoalhaven Business Chamber, Clr Findley, a representative from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Regional NSW, and Peter Masterton, AusIndustry, to consider options for an Incubator Hub in Nowra.

CARRIED

Note: The General Manager introduced the new Director, Finance, Corporate and Community Services, Stephen Dunshea. Stephen then introduced Coralie Bell, Manager Tourism to give an update on tourism.

BE18.28 Additional Item - Tourism Update

Coralie Bell gave a tourism update as follows:

- The 360 model looks at success in tourism (not just jobs) and includes customer experience. Draft documents on the 360 model is going to Shoalhaven Tourism Advisory Group meeting next week.
- Tourism figures are showing growth in tourism during winter months leading to jobs growth and economic development.
- The unspoilt campaign is continuing.
- The Shoalhaven Wonders campaign is a local campaign.
- Reviewing event support program.
- A new project officer has commenced in Tourism.

John Lamont noted the announcement of grant funding for tourism specific environmental infrastructure projects.

Coralie advised that the Tourism Unit have been working with Eurobodalla and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to establish a Great Walk from Bawley Point.

Marianne noted that Council has been invited to put forward two projects, for the South Nowra Rest Area and Nowra Showground enhancements.

Lexie Myer asked how the winter figures are calculated. Coralie advised that they come from Tourism Research Australia data quarterly. The winter figures are from 2017 winter period.

BE18.29 Additional Item - Member for Kiama Representative Update

Tony Emery raised concerns that the RMS Nowra Bridge project will not deliver what the community wants and asked the General Manager to continue to lobby/advocate for community.

The General Manager advised that RMS representatives will be briefing councillors on 23 August 2018.

Tony also advised that the Bundanon Trust has received \$8.6million to fund an extension. The Trust is pursuing an additional \$20million for project. Tony noted that some see Bundanon Trust doing for Nowra what MONA did for Hobart.

Tony raised concerns about Federal political events and the impact on local funding.

The General Manager noted the importance of lobbying Shadow Ministers as well as sitting Members of Parliament.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.15pm.

Mr John Lamont
CHAIRPERSON