

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021
Location: Council Chambers, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra
Time: 4.01pm

The following members were present:

Clr Mark Kitchener
Clr Jo Gash
Clr Patricia White
Clr Nina Digiglio - (Remotely 4:15)
Clr Amanda Findley - (Remotely)
Mr John Lamont - Chairperson
Ms Alison Chiam - (Arrived 4:04)
Ms Jemma Tribe
Mr David Goodman
Ms Kate Morris - (Remotely)
Mr Peter Masterson - Department of Industry, Innovation & Science (AusIndustry)
Ms Lexie Meyer
Mr Paul Mitchell – Representative for Fiona Phillips, MP - (Arrived 4:03)
Mr Greg Pullen - Economic Development Manager – CEO Nominee

Others present:

Mr Clyde Poulton
Mr Robert Domm – Director City Futures – (Remotely)
Ms Cathy Bern - Manager – Development Services
Ms Marianne Jones – Economic Development Officer
Mr Milton Bazley – Export Hub Facilitator, Shoalhaven Export Hub

Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Wells, Ian Morris, Fiona Hatcher and Anna Finch.

Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLVED (Clr White / Jemma Tribe)

That the Minutes of the Business and Employment Development Committee held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 be confirmed.

CARRIED

Declarations of Interest

Nil.

REPORTS

BE21.9 Grant Applications by Council

HPERM Ref:
D21/184449

Greg Pullen - Economic Development Manager - addressed the meeting and advised the following:

- A register of all grants applied for and obtained from 1 July 2020 onwards has been set up.
- Of the 187 applications completed, 65% were successful, 26% are yet to be determined and approximately 18% unsuccessful.
- Commitments to date is \$56 million in grants with another \$52 million in Council budget.

Clr White expressed thanks to Greg Pullen and his team and other staff within Council that have been involved in completing grant applications and achieving the grant funding that has been received.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on Grant Applications by Council be received for information.

RESOLVED (David Goodman / Peter Masterson)

That the report on Grant Applications by Council be received for information.

CARRIED

BE21.16 Significant Development Applications

HPERM Ref:
D21/183912

Cathy Bern - Manager, Development Services - addressed the meeting and advised the following:

- Significant Development Applications listed on the spreadsheet provided are Applications over \$1 million in value and no single dwelling houses.
- The value of (larger) Development Applications totals \$627 million.
- Industrial subdivision development in Berry has been approved – near railway / old co-op building.
- Committee members suggested that the value for Significant Development Applications be increased from \$1 million to \$2 million for the analysis to be reported to the next meeting.
- Staff can provide further advice outside of the meeting in relation to the development sheet.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That:

1. The report of the Director, City Development concerning significant Development Applications be received for information.
2. The value for Significant Development Applications be increased from \$1 million to \$2 million for the analysis to be reported to the next meeting.

RESOLVED (John Lamont / Clr Gash)

That:

1. The report of the Director, City Development concerning significant Development Applications be received for information.
2. The value for Significant Development Applications be increased from \$1 million to \$2 million for the analysis to be reported to the next meeting.

CARRIED

BE21.10 Progress Report on Shoalhaven Export Hub**HPERM Ref:
D21/184480**

Milton Bazley - Export Hub Facilitator, Shoalhaven Export Hub - provided a PowerPoint presentation to the meeting.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the Shoalhaven Export Hub project be received for information.

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / Peter Masterson)

That the report on the Shoalhaven Export Hub project be received for information.

CARRIED

BE21.11 Shoalhaven, the Economic Future**HPERM Ref:
D21/187009**

Greg Pullen addressed the meeting and made the following comments:

- Structural adjustment is happening with more people moving from part-time and casual jobs to fulltime jobs.
- Industry wanting to move here from Canberra and Western Sydney but more labour is needed.
- Very pleasing result is the unemployment rate in the Shoalhaven (5.7%) is much lower than the rate in Wollongong (6.7%) and is around the middle of Australia's LGAs for unemployment rates. Shoalhaven is consistently number 1 or 2 in NSW.

Paul Mitchell, Representative for Fiona Phillips MP, enquired as to whether there has been strong targeted vocational training coming into the area as part of the development that is currently underway or being planned.

In response Greg Pullen advised that:

- As part of the evolution of the skill shortage, State Government programs have been put in place.
- Successful Government contractors are required to employ apprentices and trainees from the programs.
- Transport NSW has been running training programs and these programs are being used for the Berry to Bomaderry upgrade, the Nowra Bridge project and will be implemented for the Shoalhaven Hospital Upgrade and like projects.
- These programs will continue to be used for the upcoming projects - Jervis Bay to Sussex Inlet, Sussex Inlet - Ulladulla and Ulladulla - Batemans Bay.

The meeting discussed using private providers and RTO's in addition to the training provided by State Government.

Kate Morris – TAFE advised that during May and June TAFE – South (Nowra – Eden) will be facilitating a Stakeholder Engagement Survey.

This initiative is an online survey for TAFE to better understand training needs and identify gaps that exist in the South Coast region.

www.tiny.cc/tafenswstakeholdersurvey

Clr Digiglio noted that there is also a severe lack of university course offerings locally.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report from the Director, City Futures, on Shoalhaven, the Economic Future be received for information.

RESOLVED (David Goodman / Alison Chiam)

That the report from the Director, City Futures, on Shoalhaven, the Economic Future be received for information.

CARRIED

BE21.12 SPBA Young Professional Mentor Program and Leadership Compass 2.0 Program update

**HPERM Ref:
D21/190050**

Greg Pullen advised that the NSW Premier, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, was quite impressed on her visit some years back that these sorts of programs were being run in a regional area.

Marianne Jones - Economic Development Officer - advised that people graduating from the Compass 2.0 program are now becoming Mentors for new people coming through the Mentor Program.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the report on the progress of the 2021 SPBA Young Professional Mentor Program be accepted for information.

RESOLVED (Alison Chiam / Lexie Meyer)

That the report on the progress of the 2021 SPBA Young Professional Mentor Program be accepted for information.

CARRIED

BE21.13 School to Industry Programs Update

**HPERM Ref:
D21/190440**

Key points arising from discussion:

- Careers Advisors have been asked to give their preference between running Professional Snapshot or Teacher To Industry in 2021. At this point it seems that schools are edging towards Professional Snapshot.
- Hoping to run Professional Snapshot in Term 3 and possibly Teacher To Industry Tour in Term 4, depending on circumstances for both school students and teachers and industry professionals.
- From an industry perspective, they (employers) would prefer to meet with teachers to get teachers and parents onboard as this will then flow on to student participation.
- South Coast Beef School Steer Spectacular took place at Nowra Showground on 5 May 2021.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

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

RESOLVED (Clr Gash / David Goodman)

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

CARRIED

BE21.14 The decentralisation of work and the Illawarra - Practical insights for business**HPERM Ref:**
D21/192611

Key points arising from discussion:

- Remote Working has resulted in more people moving to the area.
- Shortfall in people to deliver services as well as meeting infrastructure and service demands with the increase in population.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Business and Employment Development Committee accept the report for information.

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / David Goodman)

That the Business and Employment Development Committee accept the report for information.

CARRIED

BE21.15 Federal Budget - impacts on Shoalhaven**HPERM Ref:**
D21/193648**Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)**

That the report on Federal Budget – impacts on Shoalhaven be received for information.

RESOLVED (John Lamont / David Goodman)

That the report on Federal Budget – impacts on Shoalhaven be received for information.

CARRIED

BE21.16 Significant Development Applications**HPERM REF:**
D21/183912

Item dealt with earlier in the meeting.

BE21.17 Update - Shoalhaven Business Chamber**HPERM Ref:**
D21/156317

Jemma Tribe provided an update from the Shoalhaven Business Chamber. Additional items not included in the report were:

- Thanks to Council for assistance in resuming face to face events from 2021.
- Launch of Business Awards to be held 27 May 2021 at Silo's Estate. Nominations for Business Awards will open on that night.
- Golf day planned for November 2021.
- AGM to be held September 2021.

- “Meet the Mayoral Candidate” event due to be held in August prior to elections - promotion starting soon.
- At many taskforce meetings there has been a lot of discussion about job vacancies and those feeling the pressure of that. Local projects are being rolled out to address this issue but the Chamber is still keen for more projects to be implemented.
- Suggestion – ask Andrew Wales to come along to next meeting.

Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Committee receive the Shoalhaven Business Chamber Update report for information.

RESOLVED (Jemma Tribe / David Goodman)

That the Committee receive the Shoalhaven Business Chamber Update report for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

BE21.18 Additional Item - Procurement of Local Goods and Services

Jemma advised the meeting that there is an opportunity for 8,000 local businesses and Council to work together to understand the Council procurement process and the businesses to become part of the Procurement Panel.

RECOMMENDATION (Jemma Tribe / Clr White)

That Council:

1. Investigate the potential for increased utilisation of local goods and services that represent value for money and engage with local suppliers throughout the procurement process.
2. Hold a forum with interested suppliers to better understand the procurement processes of Council and procurement panels.
3. Invite Council’s Procurement Manager to address the meeting on Council’s procurement processes in relation to selection panels.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:30pm.

Mr John Lamont
CHAIRPERSON