

## MINUTES OF THE SHOALHAVEN ECONOMIC GROWTH & ADVOCACY GROUP

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 18 March 2024  
**Location:** Orchid & Osprey Training Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Rd, Nowra  
**Time:** 4.00pm

The following members were present:

Mr John Lamont – Manufacturing - Chairperson  
Clr Matthew Norris - Voting Councillor Ward 1 (Remotely) – Left 5:01pm  
Clr Patricia White - Voting Councillor Ward 3  
Clr Mark Kitchener – Alternate Ward 3  
Clr Gillian Boyd - Alternate Ward 3 (Remotely)  
Ms Anna Finch - Human Resources (Remotely)  
Ms Brenda Sambrook - Small Business Operator (Remotely)  
Ms Michelle Bishop – Tourism  
Mr Robert Crow – Tourism  
Ms Sandra Gray - Small Business Operator (Remotely) – Joined 4:19pm

Others present:

Mr Paul Mitchell – Representative for Member of Gilmore (Remotely)  
Ms Bron Hewson - Regional NSW (Remotely)  
Mr Lou Matthews – Service NSW (Remotely)  
Mr Matt Dell - Milton/Ulladulla Business Chamber (Remotely)  
Ms Natalie Harker – Kangaroo Valley Chamber of Tourism & Commerce (Remotely)  
Mr Danny Payne - Huskisson Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Ms Joanne Payne – Observer  
Mr Lester Radford – Culburra & District Chamber of Commerce (Remotely)  
Mr Kym Heffernan – Culburra & District Chamber of Commerce (Remotely)  
Ms Kate Dezarnaulds – Berry Chamber of Commerce & Tourism  
Ms Coralie McCarthy – Acting Director City Futures  
Mr Ryan Schulter - Senior Economic Development Officer  
Ms Kristy Mayhew - Tourism & Economic Development Manager  
Ms Lisa Brown - Business & Events Coordinator

Ms Coralie McCarthy assumed the Chair and asked the members present if there were any nominations for the role of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Mr John Lamont was nominated for the position of Chairperson, and Mr Robert Crow for Deputy Chairperson. No further nominations were received and Mr John Lamont was declared as Chairperson, and Mr Robert Crow Deputy Chairperson.

### Apologies / Leave of Absence

Apologies were received from Clr Watson, Clr Wells, Lindy Pitt, Laurie Koster, Jemma Tribe, Courtney Butler, Ross Popplewell and Fiona Hatcher.

## Confirmation of the Minutes

### RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Minutes of the Shoalhaven Economic Growth & Advocacy Group held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 be confirmed, and the Minutes of Wednesday 18 October 2023 be updated to include an apology from Ms Brenda Sambrook.

CARRIED

## Declaration of Interests

Nil

## PRESENTATIONS

### EG24.1 Presentation - B2B Economic Development Website

HPERM Ref:  
D24/35194

Ms Kristy Mayhew - Tourism & Economic Development Manager, presented to the Group regarding the new Shoalhaven City Council Economic Development Website. The information presented is attached to these minutes.

## REPORTS

### EG24.2 Advocacy and Growth - Staff Update

HPERM Ref:  
D24/20518

#### Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Economic Growth and Advocacy Group receive this report for their information.

### RESOLVED (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Economic Growth and Advocacy Group receive this report for their information.

CARRIED

### EG24.3 Action Update

HPERM Ref:  
D24/67907

#### Recommendation (Item to be determined under delegated authority)

That the Shoalhaven Economic Growth & Advocacy Group:

1. Accept and receive the Action Table Report for information.
2. Consider the following actions complete and remove from the Action Table:
  - a. EG23.8 - Additional Item - Tourism Signage
  - b. EG23.17 - Additional Item - Job Data Snapshot - Presentation by Sandra Gray
  - c. EG23.16 - Additional Item - Shoalhaven Economic Development Strategy - Desktop Review Progress - Report Back
  - d. EG23.15 - Additional Item - Six Cities Vision - Invite Greater Cities Commission
  - e. EG23.14 - Additional Item - EV Charging Stations - Presentation from Councils Lead

Sustainability Officer

**RESOLVED** (By consent)

That the Shoalhaven Economic Growth & Advocacy Group:

1. Accept and receive the Action Table Report for information.
2. Consider the following actions complete and remove from the Action Table:
  - a. EG23.8 - Additional Item - Tourism Signage
  - b. EG23.17 - Additional Item - Job Data Snapshot - Presentation by Sandra Gray
  - c. EG23.16 - Additional Item - Shoalhaven Economic Development Strategy - Desktop Review Progress - Report Back
  - d. EG23.15 - Additional Item - Six Cities Vision - Invite Greater Cities Commission
  - e. EG23.14 - Additional Item - EV Charging Stations - Presentation from Councils Lead Sustainability Officer

CARRIED

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### **EG24.7 Additional Item - Financial Sustainability Report - SEGA Feedback**

The Group resolved to formalise the feedback below for Council to consider when making decisions relating to CL24.68 - Financial Sustainability Monthly Report.

That the Shoalhaven Economic Growth & Advocacy Group (SEGA) requests Council consider the following feedback in decision making:

1. SEGA recognises the economic importance of the visitor economy to the City of Shoalhaven and the role events play in driving the economy. As such, SEGA does not support:
  - a. the re-introduction of fees to business, including to outdoor dining, as per business paper recommendation Report CL24.68 Financial Sustainability Monthly Report.
  - b. any reduction in funding to community events and recommends the continuation of the community donations program, this is against the recommendation in the business paper Report CL24.68 Financial Sustainability Monthly Report.
2. To consider business fees and charges fairly across the city, such as retail displays and the use of Council assets by the community, i.e. retail are charged a fee but dining is not.

### **EG24.5 Advocacy Brainstorm**

**HPERM Ref:  
D24/35183**

The Group participated in an interactive Advocacy Brainstorm activity to indicate priorities in relation to a number of Economic Growth & Tourism related projects in the Shoalhaven. The results are attached to the Minutes.

### **EG24.6 Business Chamber Updates**

**HPERM Ref:  
D24/75597**

The Group received an update from Business Chamber and Government representatives present at the meeting. Information provided by Bron Hewson – Regional NSW, is attached to these Minutes.

**EG24.8 Additional Item - Update - Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner**

Ms Coralie McCarthy – Acting Director City Futures, updated the Group on the work of the Office of the 24 Hour Economy Commissioner regarding the Uptown Program. The information presented, and additional information regarding the Uptown Program, is attached to these Minutes.

**EG24.4 SEGA Terms of Reference Discussion****HPERM Ref:  
D24/81062**

*Note: This item was not discussed and is deferred to the next meeting.*

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5:52pm.

John Lamont  
CHAIRPERSON