

Meeting notes

MidCoast Economic Development Working Group

Date	Thursday 13 February 2020	Time	10:00am – 12:15pm
Venue	MidCoast Council Boardroom – 16 Breese Parade Forster	Chair	Cr Pontin
		Note-taker	Lianna Koller
Attendance	Cr Pontin (Chair), Robyn Brennan, Deb Tuckerman, Paul De Szell, Meagan Lewis, John Mansour, Cr Hutchinson, James Hooke, John Howard, Richard Pamplin, Andrew Fitzgibbons, Aaron Kelly		
Apologies	Liz Jarvis, Kevin Bakewell, Brian Parry, Cr Epov		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Welcome and apologies
2	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>3.1 Employment Zone Review – Presentation by Strategic Planning staff on the Employment Zone Review currently being undertaken. See attached fact sheets for further information and to view the documents visit: www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/zoningin</p>
3	<p>Outstanding Actions:</p> <p>Actions arising from previous notes:</p> <p>Item 1 – Nil to report</p> <p>Item 2 - Completed at this meeting</p> <p>Item 3 – Cr Hutchinson not present in room to comment</p>
4	<p>Bushfire and Water Restriction Impacts update:</p> <p>5.1 Business Roundtable: Paul De Szell and Robyn Brennan gave a review of the recent “Business Roundtable” meeting that was held with Business Chamber reps, along with reps from NSW Business Chamber, Destination NSW, Destination Barrington Coast and Regional Development Australia regarding the current situation within the LGA in relation to the bushfire recovery. An overview was also given relating to water restrictions and what the current priorities are of the Drought Management Working Group.</p> <p>5.2 Why Leave Town Campaign: Robyn Brennan gave an overview of the Why Leave Town Campaign that Council will be supporting. Chambers via the Business Roundtable and businesses will be asked to assist to market the campaign to ensure activation and longevity.</p>

Item	Key points/actions
5	<p>Focus areas Due to timing constraints it was agreed to not discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Gateway • Business Friendly Council • Business Innovation Hub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Howard tabled a study paper regarding Innovation Hubs for discussion ○ Cr Pontin personally thanked John for his participation with the EDWG given that John will be leaving the area and therefore resigning from the group. ○ A discussion was held around the proposed University Campus in Taree and how an Innovation Hub can couple well with this model or work independently. This concept warrants further discussion around the ideas of “Is there a demand for this in the MidCoast area and if so, how do we support this?”
6	<p>2020 meeting schedule It was agreed that the working group should meet monthly in order to continue momentum of activities. The length of the meetings is also extended from 10am – 1:00pm Proposed meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 19 March - Taree • Thursday 16 April - Forster • Thursday 21 May • Thursday 18 June • Thursday 16 July • Thursday 20 August

Record of outstanding actions

Item		Date added	Resp	Status
1	Self-nominated members to work on a draft Statement of Intent for consideration by the working group	19 Sep 2019	CP, LJ, AR, JH	Nil to report
2	Review Council Employment Zone plans once available	19 Sep 2019	ALL	(see item 3.1) COMPLETED
3	Cr Hutchinson to raise the concept of BP Southern Experience with Destination Management staff and explore options for Brian to present to / join Barrington Coast Reference Group	19 Sep 2019	KH	

Next meeting

Date	Thursday 19 March 2020	Time	10:00am – 1:00pm
Venue	Committee Room - MidCoast Council, 2 Pulteney Street Taree		