

SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

to be held on Wednesday 25 May 2016
commencing at 4.00pm

City Administrative Centre
Bridge Road
NOWRA NSW 2541

17 May 2016

Dear Member

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Business and Employment Development Committee to be held on **Wednesday 25 May 2016** commencing at **4.00pm** in the City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra in Jervis Bay Rooms 1 and 3 for consideration of the following business.

R D Pigg
General Manager

Please note that refreshments will not be supplied at this meeting

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Report of the General Manager
Planning and Development Services
5. External Member Reports
6. Addendum Reports
7. General Business

MEMBERSHIP – Quorum (6)

John Lamont - Chairperson	John Lamont – RDA
Clr Gash – Mayor	Paul Goodwin – NSW TAFE
All Councillors	Megan Cleary – NSW Department of Industry
General Manager or nominee	David Goodman – SBC
Gareth Ward MP (or nominee Tony Emery)	Rep – Milton Ulladulla BC
Shelley Hancock MP (or nominee)	Angela Byron – Nowra HS
Ann Sudmalis (or nominee)	Fiona Hatcher – RDA FSC
Adrian Stam / Graham Baxter – Southern Regional Business Enterprise Centre	Steven Bayer – Shoalhaven Prof. Business Assoc
Robbie Collins – University of Wollongong	Lexie Meyer – Community
Peter Dryer - Community Manufacturing Construction	James Coburn – Community Defence

Cell Phones: Council's Code of Meeting Practice states that "All cell phones are to be turned off for the duration of the meeting".

Purpose:

- To assist in the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy and monitor and report on performance.
- Support the expansion of industry activities within the Shoalhaven, across all sectors.
- Encourage the location of new industries in the region which will lead to an increase in the number of employment opportunities for the residents of the region
- Grow the socio economic base of the Shoalhaven.
- Examine and review employment development strategies and report on initiatives to carry their strategies forward.

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2016 IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1, 2 & 3, CITY
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE, BRIDGE ROAD, NOWRA COMMENCING AT 4.01PM.**

The following members were present:

John Lamont – Chairperson
Clr Watson
Clr Gash
Clr Kitchener
Clr Tribe
Clr Kearney
Clr Wells
Russ Pigg – General Manager
Fiona Hatcher
Catherine Shields
Robbie Collins
Megan Cleary
Paul Goodwin
David Goodman
Lexie Meyer

Others Present:

Tim Fletcher – Director Planning and Development
Greg Pullen – Economic Development Manager
Marianne Jones – Economic Development Officer
Cathy Bern – Development Services Manager
Coralie Bell – Tourism Manager

Apologies:

Apologies were received from, Hon Shelley Hancock, Col Waller, Clr White

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

MOTION: Moved: Clr Kearney / Second: Clr Wells

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Business and Employment Development Committee, held on Thursday 26 November 2015, be confirmed.

CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

2. Development not Commenced in the Shoalhaven - Update File 38821E

This item was brought forward for consideration.

MOTION: Moved: Clr Tribe / Second: Fiona Hatcher

RESOLVED that the report of the General Manager (Planning & Development Services) regarding the update on development not commenced in the Shoalhaven be received for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL MANAGER

3. ShoalHub File 38821E

MOTION: Moved: John Lamont / Second: Robbie Collins

RESOLVED that the report on the ShoalHub be received for information.

CARRIED

Note:

John Lamont advised that the Arts Centre meeting Room has been very well attended, however use of the hot desk has not met expectations. More business meetings are being held at the Arts Centre.

4. Shop Shoalhaven - a Pop Up Shop Project File 50010E, 39962E

Note: Paul Goodwin arrived at the meeting.

MOTION: Moved: Catherine Shields / Second: Paul Goodwin

RESOLVED that the report on Shop Shoalhaven be received for information.

CARRIED

5. Shoalhaven Business Chamber File 41204E

David Goodman arrived 4.15pm

MOTION: Moved: Clr Wells / Second: David Goodman

RECOMMENDED that Council:

- a) Enters into a new Memorandum of Understanding with the Shoalhaven Business Chamber for the three financial years being 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019

-
- i) for the delivery of the Shoalhaven Business Awards and
 - ii) a business events/training program.
- b) Allocate \$40,000 from the Economic Development budget for each financial year for the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding.

CARRIED

6. National Stronger Regions File 49858E

MOTION: Moved: Clr Wells / Second: Clr Kearney

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) The report on National Stronger Regions be received for information;
- b) Draft submissions for round 3 be referred to the Far South Coast RDA

CARRIED

7. Major Infrastructure Projects - Grant funded File 38821E

MOTION: Moved: Lexie Meyer / Second: Fiona Hatcher

RESOLVED that the report by the Economic Development Manager on Major Infrastructure Projects be received for information.

CARRIED

Note:

It was advised that \$1.9m Little Forrest Road intersection project has commenced utilising Federal Government Grant.

8. Economic Update & Employment Land Activity File 49955E, 1998E, 13766E

MOTION: Moved: Clr Gash / Second: Paul Goodwin

RESOLVED that the report by the Economic Development Manager on economic trends and employment land activity be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Government Assistance Information Breakfast File 38821e

MOTION: Moved: Clr Gash / Second: David Goodman

RESOLVED that the report on the Government Assistance Information Breakfast be received for information.

CARRIED

ADDENDUM REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

10. Information Report - Membership Review Update File 38821E

MOTION: Moved: Paul Goodwin / Second: David Goodman

RESOLVED that the Committee receive the information report regarding the membership review update for information.

CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. Additional Item – Update – Regional Tourism

Catherine Shields advised the following:

- The #unspoiltshoalhaven campaign ads are mostly online and in Sydney and Canberra.
- It was a successful ad campaign however it didn't win an award and was up against other regions such as Mornington Peninsula.
- A review of all regional tourism will take place from Shellharbour south to Bega Valley
- Shoalhaven Tourism is ranked 7th in all of Regional Australia (based on domestic overnight expenditure)

12. Additional Item – International Freight Symposium Canberra

Marianne Jones advised the following:

- Over the weekend the Canberra Airport held an International Freight Symposium
- This was attended by Greg Pullen and Marianne Jones
- Key points taken from this is that Canberra Airport:
 - Is now flying Internationally to Singapore
 - Has no curfew, therefore making it easier for local companies to export their products to Singapore and beyond.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded, the time being 5.03pm.

John Lamont
CHAIRPERSON

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER
BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016

GENERAL MANAGER

1. HVSP, Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail

File 40290E

SECTION MANAGER: Greg Pullen

PURPOSE:

To inform the committee about recent infrastructure applications associated with the Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSP), Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail.

RECOMMENDED that the report on HVSP, Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail be received for information.

OPTIONS

1. The recommendation be accepted as written.
2. An alternative recommendation be proposed.

DETAILS

The Economic Development Office of Shoalhaven City Council has provided support, advice and assistance on a number of federal and state government grants being the Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program (HVSP), Fixing Country Roads and Fixing Country Rail.

The HVSP is a federal government program that aims to increase productivity and safety of heavy vehicles by enhancing the capacity of existing roads and improving connections to freight networks. The government will contribute a maximum of 50% of the total project cost.

Fixing Country Roads is a State Government program which aims to provide targeted funding to local councils for road projects that will eliminate connectivity constraints on local roads in NSW and reduce the cost to market for local businesses. Round 2 closed on May 2016.

Shoalhaven City Council, Goulburn Mulwaree Council and Palerang Shire Councils have partnered to apply for funding to upgrade the route between Nerriga and Sandy Point Road via Oallen Ford. This project is entitled 'Heavy Vehicle Freight Route – Nerriga to Sandy

Point Road'. The aim of the project is to upgrade a 32.7km section of road between Nerriga and Sandy Point. The upgrade will eliminate the 15 tonne load limit on Oallen Ford Road and thereby create a heavy vehicle freight route linking the coast to the Hume Highway. Once the project is completed, General Mass Limit and Higher Mass Limit Heavy Vehicles will be able to cross the Illawarra escarpment travelling via Nerriga and Tarago on a route that generally has lower gradients and shorter travel distances than other accessible travel routes.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council applied to Round Five of the HVSP for funding for this project while Palerang Shire Council was the proponent for Fixing Country Roads.

Goulburn Mulwarree Council requested \$24,755,000 in funding toward the project total of \$49,513,000. This figure was revised as more detailed costings were developed. This accounts for the discrepancy between project costings.

The Fixing Country Roads grant application was a two staged process. Proponents submitted an expression of interest. Selected proponents were then asked to submit a final application. Palerang Shire Council submitted the final application requesting \$21,317,300 toward a total project cost of \$45,634,600.

Goulburn Mulwaree and Palerang Shire Council's will each contribute \$1,500,000 toward the project.

Both applications, the HVSP and the Fixing Country Roads, will be assessed in tandem.

Thus far feedback has been favourable. Early reviews of the EoI and HVSP application were positive. Transport for NSW staff have been particularly helpful and have provided assistance with the Business Cost Analysis template. In addition, Goulburn Mulwaree and Shoalhaven Council staff provided Transport for NSW a guided tour of the route.

Fixing Country Rail is NSW Government pilot rail program designed to complement Fixing Country Roads and aims to eliminate connectivity constraints on the NSW regional rail network. Like Fixing Country Roads, Fixing Country Rail is a two staged application process; proponents first submit an EoI and if 'successful' are then requested to submit a full application. The government has allocated \$15 million to this pilot program.

Shoalhaven City Council, via the Economic Development Office, has written letters of support for the following rail projects identified by Manildra:

- Upgrade the rail corridor between Berry and Bomaderry (13km) to Class 1 track – this project will enable Manildra to carry a third container on their 60ft wagons leading to a 33% increase in efficiency. (Indicative cost \$4.16M)
- Nowra Container Terminal Construction and required Signalling Changes – Manildra will be investing over \$19M in the construction of a new Container Terminal and associated rail sidings. This project requests that the Bomaderry Home and Distant Signal be relocated a further 500 meters towards Berry. This would free up much needed space for Manildra to shunt and form trains and will also significantly reduce the number of Bolong Road crossing. (Indicative cost \$1.2M)
- Extension of the Crossing Facility at Unanderra through installation of a new Turnout – this will ensure rail services that operate on the Moss Vale to Unanderra corridor

to or from the South Coast can operate in excess of 600 metres in length by performing the run around movement at Unanderra and avoiding the need to operate via Inner or Outer Harbour, a journey that can take up to an hour. (Cost \$800,000)

- Moss Vale to Unanderra Corridor – Extension of the Summit Tank Loop – will allow for greater efficiency by rail for the movement of rail services through greater rail capacity with the primary advantage of operating services on the corridor greater than 670 metres. The project will extend the existing loop at Summit Tank from 670 metres to 900 metres allowing services to operate at this length in between clearance points from the main line. (\$ provided by ARTC)
- Refurbishment of Manildra Yard (Manildra NSW) including the main line, Ex loop now siding, the grain siding. The NSW Government owns this entire infrastructure - from Western Grain locations through rail services to Manildra being 14,300 tonnes per week for flour production and a further 1000 tonnes per week of Canola delivery for production. Manildra also loads to rail 7200 tonnes per week of flour and 750 tonnes per week of pellets for transit to the Manildra Group Bomaderry facility. Manildra also exports approximately 3000 containers to the Port of Botany each year with this figure expected to grow to 5,600 containers within the next 12 months. The Manildra Group employs approximately 1000 personnel in NSW with 250 employees located at the Manildra plant. The Manildra Mill plant is the 8th largest independent Mill of its kind in the world. The completion of this project will ensure that the existing 1.5 million tonnes and continued growth of freight moved. (Cost \$4,798,800)
- Manildra Yard – Extension of the Container Siding and connection to the main line – extension of the container siding at Manildra yard, Manildra, NSW, a further 245 metres and connect to the main line. Closure of Boree Road level crossing and asphalt works to seal new roadway connection. (Project total \$2.2M; funding request \$1.77M)

Many of the projects listed above do not occur within the Shoalhaven. The Economic Development Office acknowledges that freight constraints in other locations can adversely impact the economy of the Shoalhaven and it is for this reason that Council is supportive of projects in other areas.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Shoalhaven City Council will not contribute financially to any of these projects. Costs incurred are limited to staff time and travel to neighbouring LGA's and Transport for NSW (Sydney).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

This report to the Shoalhaven Business & Employment Development Committee is to inform the committee of a number of identified infrastructure projects that would have a positive impact on the economy of the Shoalhaven.

SECTION MANAGER: Greg Pullen**PURPOSE:**

To inform the committee about the 'Flinders Road Drop In Session'.

RECOMMENDED that the report on the Flinders Road Drop In Session be received for information.

OPTIONS

1. The recommendation be accepted as written.
2. An alternative recommendation be proposed.

DETAILS

Shoalhaven City Council successfully applied for funding under the NSW Fixing Country Roads program and the Federal Heavy Vehicle Safety Productivity Program to improve Flinders Road and improve safety and access for heavy vehicles. This project is entitled 'South Nowra Freight Corridor - Flinders Road, South Nowra' (the project).

Shoalhaven City Council will contribute \$300,000 toward the project and has received the following grant funding allocations:

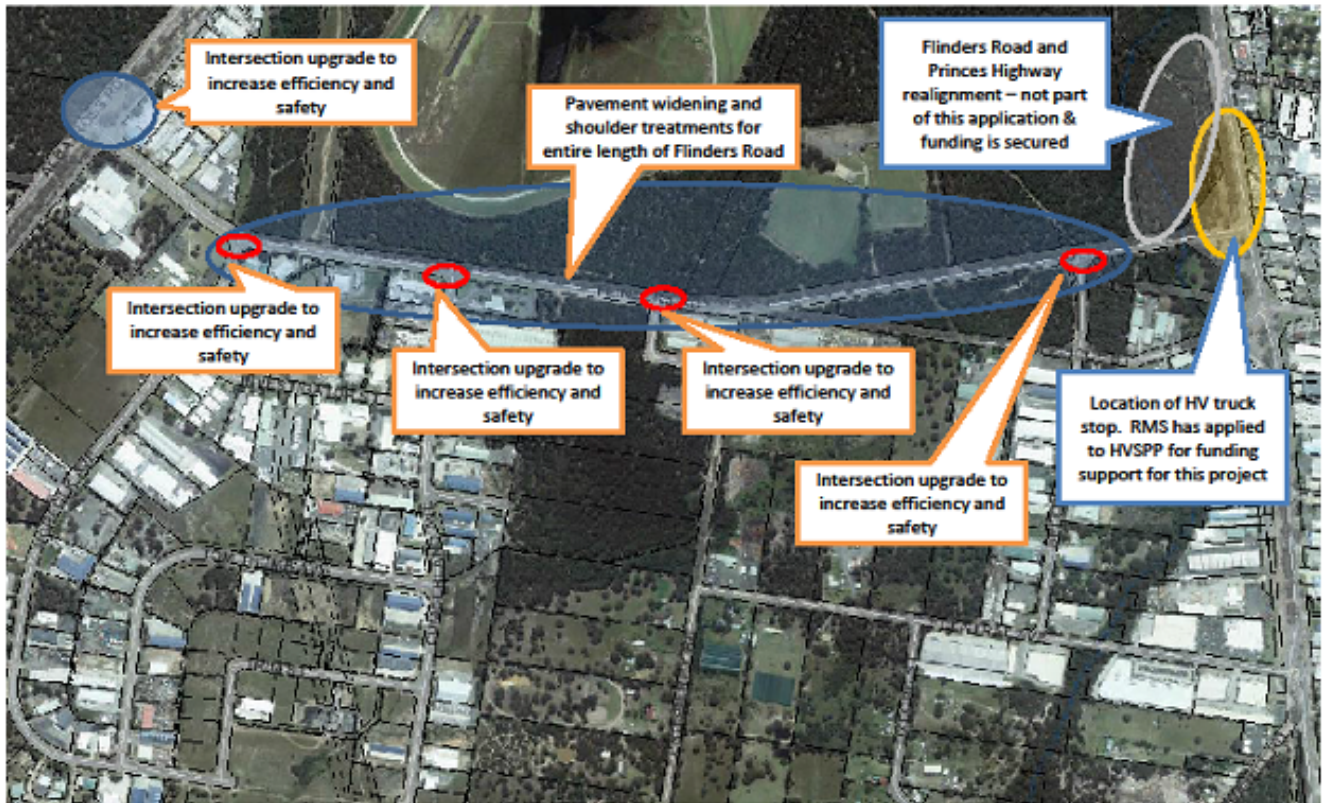
HVSPP	\$2,950,000
Fixing Country Roads	\$3,100,000
Shoalhaven City Council	<u>\$ 300,000</u>
PROJECT TOTAL	<u>\$6,350,000</u>

The project consists of widening of Flinders Road, improving a number of intersections and upgrading the Albatross/Flinders Road intersection. Between Norfolk Avenue and Bellevue Street, Flinders Road currently has a pavement width of 6m and this project will increase this to up to 14m at intersections.

This project will compliment work underway and partially funded by Restart Illawarra being the realignment of the Flinders Road and Princes Highway intersection.

The diagram below provides an overview of the South Nowra Freight Corridor - Flinders Road, South Nowra project components (orange) and how the project compliments the Flinders Road and Princess Highway realignment funded by Restart Illawarra.

New Scenario for Heavy Vehicle Freight Corridor – Flinders Road South Nowra.



The diagram also shows the location of the then proposed RMS heavy vehicle rest area. At the time of applying for funding it was understood that the RMS would apply for Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program funding to construct a heavy vehicle rest area in the immediate vicinity. Currently, the Heavy Vehicle Rest Area location and construction timeframes are still being investigated by the RMS.

The Flinders Road Drop In session is scheduled for the 15th June 2016 (12pm to 5pm) and will be located at the Shoalhaven Water South Nowra Depot Training Room.

The drop in session will be an opportunity for interested parties to inspect the planned works and provide feedback. Shoalhaven City Council staff will be available to explain the planned works and answer any questions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs associated with the Flinders Road Drop In session will be minimal and will be covered from the project budget.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

This report to the Shoalhaven Business & Employment Development Committee is part of the community consultative process and its purpose is to inform.

3. Business Development Programs

File 38975E

SECTION MANAGER: Greg Pullen

PURPOSE:

To inform the committee about upcoming Business Development Programs.

RECOMMENDED that the report on Business Development Programs be received for information.

OPTIONS

1. The recommendation be accepted as written.
2. An alternative recommendation be proposed.

DETAILS

The Economic Development Office of Shoalhaven City Council supports a number of business development programs. Currently the office is working closely with the Shoalhaven Business Chamber, the Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre (SRBEC) and the Business Sessions to facilitate delivery of quality business training and development opportunities.

The Shoalhaven City Council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shoalhaven Business Chamber (approved via MIN16.264). Under this agreement the Chamber will deliver a number of business training and development programs to Shoalhaven businesses. These opportunities are open to all Shoalhaven business and are not restricted to chamber members. The Chamber has developed a varied program that has been designed to offer something to everyone. The Chamber has developed the following business training and development opportunities:

- Lunch and Learn series – providing up to date business information within a relaxed atmosphere.
- Women in Business luncheon series – a business development and networking opportunity specifically designed to meet the needs of Shoalhaven Business women.
- Business Masterclass series – a series of four workshops focused on improving personal and business productivity.
- Breakfast Bites – a series of informative networking sessions.

Council supports both the SRBEC and the Business Sessions through providing training rooms for their business training sessions.

The SRBEC provides business and educational services to 18 LGA's including the Shoalhaven. They contract for the delivery of a number of Federal and State government services and provide a number of business advisory services.

The Business Sessions are delivered by Sue Brodie and Mel Louth. Sue is a qualified trainer and behavioural specialist and has spent many years working with business owners to create sustainable strategies. Mel Louth has been working in the marketing arena for over 10 years and has recently started to focus more heavily on social media. The Business Sessions have run a number of training sessions on electronic marketing and social media.

Recent and upcoming business development sessions include:

- 24th April 2016 – Shoalhaven Business Chamber Business Masterclass Productivity Workshop 1 *Design Habits for Success* Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 8am to 10am. Contact Jeni on 4423 3582.
- 10th May 2016 – **The Business Sessions Facebook for Business Part 2** Shoalhaven City Council Ulladulla Training Room 8.30am to 11.30am. Contact Sue at thegirls@thebusinesssessions.com.au
- 25th May 2016 – **SRBEC Employ Smart – focusing on productivity in your business** Shoalhaven City Council Nowra Training Room. Contact Jasmin on 6297 3121.
- 31st May 2016 – **Shoalhaven Business Chamber Business Masterclass Productivity Workshop 2 Time Bandits** Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 8am to 10am. Contact Jeni on 4423 3582.
- 16th June 2016 – **Shoalhaven Business Chamber Business Masterclass Productivity Workshop 3 Harness Your Success** Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 8am to 10am. Contact Jeni on 4423 3582.
- 28th June 2016 – **Shoalhaven Business Chamber Business Masterclass Productivity Workshop 4 Delegate or Drown** Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 8am to 10am. Contact Jeni on 4423 3582.
- 15th June 2016 - **The Business Sessions Facebook for Business Part 1** Shoalhaven City Council Nowra Training Room 8.30am to 11.30am. Contact Sue at thegirls@thebusinesssessions.com.au
- 20th July 2016 - **The Business Sessions Facebook for Business Part 2** Shoalhaven City Council Ulladulla Training Room 8.30am to 11.30am. Contact Sue at thegirls@thebusinesssessions.com.au

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Shoalhaven City Council has provided funding to the Shoalhaven Business Chamber to run a number of business development sessions. This funding is allocated from the Economic Development Office budget.

The SRBEC and the Business Sessions receive support through the use of Council training rooms. This has minimal costs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

This report to the Shoalhaven Business & Employment Development Committee is part of the community consultative process and its purpose is to inform.

4. NBN Business Information Session

File 47827E

SECTION MANAGER: Greg Pullen

PURPOSE:

To promote the upcoming NBN Business Information Session scheduled for the 2nd June 2016 held at Shoalhaven City Council, Jervis Bay Rooms 1 & 3.

RECOMMENDED that the report on the NBN Business Information Session be received for information.

OPTIONS

1. The recommendation be accepted as written.
2. An alternative recommendation be proposed.

DETAILS

Mariam Chizari, Community Affairs Manager NSW, NBN, will be presenting a NBN Business Information Session to interested members of the Shoalhaven Business community. The session will cover the following:

- NBN for Business
- Where NBN is available
- How to get connected
- Benefits of the NBN network

This information session has been arranged by Shoalhaven City Council, the Shoalhaven Business Chamber and the Shoalhaven Professional Business Association.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no costs associated with this information session. Shoalhaven City Council will provide the room and the Economic Development Office will receive and compile the RSVP's.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Information about this session will be sent to the membership of the Shoalhaven Business Chamber and Shoalhaven Professional Business Association.

Information will be sent electronically to key contacts of the Nowra CBD Revitalisation Committee, the newly formed Nowra CBD Business Chamber, Sussex Inlet Chamber of Commerce, Berry Chamber of Commerce and the Milton Ulladulla Business Chamber.

5. Smart Cities Plan

File 31157E

SECTION MANAGER: Greg Pullen

PURPOSE:

To inform the Business and Employment Development Committee about the Australian Government's Smart Cities Plan.

RECOMMENDED that the report on the Smart Cities Plan be received for information.

OPTIONS

1. The recommendation be accepted as written.
2. An alternative recommendation be proposed.

DETAILS

The Smart Cities Plan was released on the 29th April 2016. The plan is intended to focus debate and action around opportunities for Australian cities both metropolitan and regional.

The Smart Cities Plan highlights the important role that cities play in the lives of all Australians. Cities are the economic powerhouses of the country and provide employment and other opportunities. The plan identifies issues such as rising inner city house prices and congestion which then have a negative impact on quality of living and economic potential.

The Smart Cities Plan is a commitment to a cooperative approach to long term planning coupled with targeted investment that will make cities places where jobs are located near homes reducing commute time and where green space is part of the city landscape.

The Plan is based on three 'pillars' being:

-
- Smart Investment
 - Smart Policy
 - Smart Technology

Smart Investment consists of prioritising projects according to economic objectives, treating infrastructure funding as an investment wherever possible and highlights the need for early and rigorous planning and leveraging investment.

Smart Investment will include greater emphasis on assessment of projects through rigorous cost benefit analysis. Supported projects will be those which promote broad economic objectives such as long term growth and job creation. In cities this will mean prioritising infrastructure that improves accessibility and promotes agglomeration economies, and projects which improve amenity, housing affordability and sustainability. (Agglomeration economies are the benefits that come from when firms and people (employees and consumers) are located near one another).

Smart Policy will mean a strategic approach that identifies clear processes, timeframes and accountability for city level reforms – acceptable to all levels of government. The Smart Policy pillar consists of three aspects:

1. Delivering ‘City Deals’
2. Leading regulatory reform
3. Measuring success

The central part of the Smart Cities Plan are ‘City Deals’. City Deals are where governments, industries and communities develop collective plans for growth and commit to the actions, investments, reforms and governance needed to implement them. This could represent an opportunity for the Shoalhaven as follows:

Many of our regional cities, where there is a single local government responsible for metropolitan planning, are especially well placed to take advantage of City Deals (pg. 21)

Some aspects of a City Deal may include:

- Targeted initiatives to strengthen existing or emerging economic hubs including industry, defence, health or education facilities
- Transport infrastructure funding or financing
- Housing supply and planning changes
- Maximising benefits from underutilised state and Commonwealth land

The Smart Cities Plan advocates for cities to leverage opportunities presented through Smart Technologies. While it is not clear at present what Smart Technologies may be in the future, currently there are opportunities surrounding energy efficiency and open data and analytics (especially when coupled with NBN access).

The Smart Cities Plan contains broad objectives with few specific programs/projects mentioned. This could provide an opportunity for the Shoalhaven to make a submission and potentially shape the future direction of the Smart Cities Plan.

Submissions on the Smart Cities Plan close on the 24th June 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

This report is provided to the Business and Employment Development Committee as information.

6. Business Rates

File 50242E

TOPIC / ISSUE:

Proposed Business Rates for 2016/17

BACKGROUND & DETAIL:

Council's draft DP/OP & budget is on exhibition until 18th May. It proposes a redistribution of business rates between the different business categories that will basically result in:

- A decrease in rates of approx. 34% for the Nowra CBD
- A decrease in rates of approx. 31% for the Ulladulla CBD
- A decrease in rates of approx. 3% for other Business rates

The overall reductions will be made up by increasing all residential rates over & above the rate peg limit of 1.8%. on average this will result in an additional increase of approx. \$18 p.a.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

That the committee support and endorse councils proposed reduction in business rates in the City.

7. Facilitating employment growth

File 50242E

TOPIC / ISSUE:

A Review of the uses allowed within Council Employment Lands and development of a marketing strategy to attract new users including Enterprise development will be undertaken by Council.

BACKGROUND & DETAIL:

It is planned to examine what is permissible, & what could be permissible, that could be a catalyst to extra employment generation.

An external consultancy has recently been engaged to undertake this review, examine what other parts of the State & Nation are doing and provide a report & recommendations including an aggressive marketing strategy.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Committee to note the information.

8. Shoalhaven River - Riverfront Infrastructure

File 50242E

TOPIC / ISSUE:

A recommendation to help activate the Shoalhaven riverfront, as follows, is being considered by council at its meeting on 24th May 2016:

RECOMMENDED that

- a) *Up to \$200,000 be allocated from the Southern Phones Dividend to fund the electricity and pontoon infrastructure initiative outlined below in this report on the basis of the economic benefits it will bring to the city.*
- b) *Staff seek possible grants to assist with funding.*
- c) *\$10,000 be allocated annually for future maintenance of this infrastructure.*

BACKGROUND & DETAIL:

Extracts from the Report to council include:

The issue of having basic infrastructure at the Shoalhaven River riverfront has come up time and again. This report relates to two specific areas:-

- 1. Electricity*
- 2. Marina/pontoon*

There are a considerable number of events and opportunities that could benefit from the installation of these two basic pieces of infrastructure. The list below provides a basic idea of the number of areas, events and opportunities that would benefit if this infrastructure was provided. This list is not exhaustive.

- Annual RiverFestival
- Numerous sailing regattas
- Dragon Boat events
- Annual Duck Dash
- Proposed Lantern festival
- Scenic flight operators
- River Cruises
- Dolphin Wild/Watch cruises
- Triathlons
- Fun runs
- Colour Run
- Markets

The costs associated with the provision of this infrastructure is estimated below:-

- \$40,000 - for electrical supply including 3 phase (3 locations) and single phase (9 – 12 locations) and possible data conduits/cable west of the Bridge
- \$160,000- Marina/Pontoon
- \$200,000 - Total costs and annual maintenance of \$5,000 to \$10,000

There is a clear economic benefit to the wider community from the activities listed above. Additionally several of these existing events need to put in place temporary infrastructure to meet their requirements. For example the cost of providing generators for the River Festival is \$ 4000 - \$5,000 and the hire of the marina is around \$20,000 per year.

Possible program of events and economic impact Event	Number participants	Local/out of area split	% overnight	Economic benefit
Annual River Festival	15,000	80/20	10%	\$1,515,000 7 Jobs
6 sailing regattas	500 per event	20/80	80%	\$396,000 1-2 jobs
2 Dragon Boat events	500 per event	20/80	60%	\$106,000 0 jobs
Annual Duck Dash	7500	80/20	10%	\$250,000 1 Job
Possible Lantern festival	7500	50/50	15%	\$515,000 2 Jobs

Possible program of events and economic impact Event	Number participants	Local/out of area split	% overnight	Economic benefit
Scenic flight operators	500 participants annually	20/80	60%	\$53,000 0 jobs
River Cruises	2,000 participants annually	20/80	60%	\$212,000 1 Job
1 x Triathlon	2,000	20/80	60%	\$212,000 1 Job
2 x Fun runs	500 per event	80/20	10%	\$300,000 1 Job
1 x Colour Run	500	80/20	10%	\$100,000 0 jobs
Markets x 4	7,000	50/50	15%	\$2,060,000 8 Jobs

Summary economic impact results of \$5,719,000 annually and 2.2 FTE jobs. This would see a significant return on investment from this project. (ROI = 28:1)

SUGGESTED ACTION:

That committee endorse council's actions to invest in, & facilitate the activation of the Shoalhaven riverfront.

9. Illawarra Shoalhaven Youth Employment Action Plan

File 50242E

TOPIC / ISSUE:

This is a priority project for the Illawarra Pilot Joint Organisation (IPJO) to create an action plan to address the high unemployment levels relating to youth in the Illawarra- Shoalhaven region.

BACKGROUND & DETAIL:

The IPJO executive, together with the Economic Development managers of the four councils and representatives of Premiers & Cabinet office are working with various stakeholders to identify the issues and compile practical actions to be implemented. Further details will be advised when the Action Plan is complete however the target areas will include:

- Construction
- Retail
- Local Government
- Aged & Disability Care

-
- Clubs

It is also proposed to establish a Youth Employment Fund to support various initiatives.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Committee note the work being undertaken at a regional level to address youth employment opportunities.

10. Land Sales & Business Enquiries

File 50242E

TOPIC / ISSUE:

There has been an increase in land sale enquiries & other contacts. The ED Manager will provide a verbal update

Russ Pigg
GENERAL MANAGER

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER
BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY 2016

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

11. **Development not Commenced in the Shoalhaven - Update**

File 38821E

SECTION MANAGER: Cathy Bern

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide a further update to the Business and Employment Committee on larger development applications in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area (LGA) that have been lodged, approved but not yet physically commenced or that have been physically commenced with minor works only.

RECOMMENDED that the report of the General Manager (Planning & Development Services) regarding the update on development not commenced in the Shoalhaven be received for information.

OPTIONS - N/A

DETAILS

The Business and Employment Committee at its meeting on 15 February 2016 received a report on approved larger developments in the Shoalhaven LGA.

Attachment "A" provides an update.

The total value of development is **\$592,810,768**

Tim Fletcher
DIRECTOR PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

R.D Pigg
GENERAL MANAGER

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016

12. **Southern Region BEC**

File 38821E

SUBMITTED BY: Adrian Stam.

BACKGROUND & DETAILS

General

The Southern Region BEC (SRBEC) was established over 28 years ago to provide a professional business advisory service for Queanbeyan and region.

Today this dynamic organisation has expanded and now provides business advisory and related business services to business partnerships to 20 local government areas across the Southern Region of NSW, including Shoalhaven. Recently our Small Biz Connect contract was expanded to include the Wollongong and Shellharbour LGA's. During the contracted period over 630 small to medium businesses in the Shoalhaven region alone have made use of this service.

Southern Region BEC is also contracted via the Australian Small Business Advisory Service (ASBAS) Program to bring further specialist resources into the Shoalhaven Region.

We work with other stakeholders, Governments and community organisations in the delivery of business services.

Recent Highlights

Arwon Engineering – South Nowra

Following the relocation of Pentair to Queensland, Arwon Engineering approached SRBEC to assist them since the majority of their income was generated through their contract/s with Pentair and with the closure of Pentair in South Nowra, were unsure as to their future. With guidance and assistance they have successfully negotiated with Pentair management to not only retained their Pentair contract but expand the contract, performing additional engineering operations to the Pentair products before transporting the finished products back to Queensland.

In order to not to be solely reliant on one contract Arwon Engineering have purchased a South Australian automotive parts, manufacturing business and relocated the computerised machinery to South Nowra. This business will a division of Arwon Engineering and operate under the name of **Masters Engineering**. Shortly after the move, Masters Engineering successfully won a multi-million dollar contract to manufacturer components for an Australian company that previously imported from China. Masters Engineering will shortly use their acquired engineering designs to start manufacturing, aftermarket automotive parts for both the domestic and export markets.

P Walsh & Sons Hardware

After the closure of the primary store in Junction St, SRBEC approached the manager of the second store and advised and assisted, in an employee buyout of this store. The purchase has been successfully concluded and with SRBEC assistance the store was given a new layout and restock, before being rebranded – Stewart’s Hardware. The initial first month trading has exceeded projections and ensured a vital local business remain in Nowra and the retainment of employees.

Future Marketing

Over 50% of small businesses in Australia have a very poor or non-existent, Online Presence. In the changing way consumers shop and get information via iPhone, computers etc. SRBEC is in the process of setting up a ‘Public Group’ - SRBEC South Coast Regional Network where South Coast businesses can like and share each other’s posts and expand their online presence.

A recent one week independent trail with just 10 businesses produced a 245% increase in Reach; 430% increase in Engagement; 57% increase in Page Views and a 50% increase in Facebook Likes.

The ‘Public Group’ would be open to all South Coast businesses and their customers. If the ‘Public Group’ has a similar result as the trail this will be a big stimulus to local business and it will be an avenue where stakeholders, Governments and community can communicate with businesses.

13. NSW Department of Industry

File 38821E

SUBMITTED BY: Megan Cleary.

TOPIC / ISSUE:

NSW Department of Industry Update

BACKGROUND & DETAIL:

NSW Department of Industry, together with the Shoalhaven Business Chamber, Office of Environment & Heritage and Ausindustry presented a Government Business Assistance Information Breakfast event at the Bomaderry Campus of TAFE Illawarra recently. The event was well attended by approximately 75 business representatives. Short presentations were provided by AusIndustry, Dept of Industry, Tradestart, OEH and the Small Biz Connect before guests were invited to meet with the other eight government agencies present to access information regarding specific business assistance, advice and incentives. The event was superbly hosted by the TAFE staff and students.

Participants provided feedback that the event was extremely valuable and should be offered again later in the year.

The South Coast & Highlands Dairy Advancement Group was established in 2015 to work with the dairy industry to consider options for a different future for fresh milk produced in

the region. NSW Department of Industry recently hosted an industry workshop facilitated by Fresh Agenda, authors of the NSW Dairy Industry Strategy to provide farmers with information about global trends in dairy product demand and the opportunity to discuss strategies employed by other dairy regions in Australia to maximise returns.

The Department will host the next industry briefing presented the Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group on 23 June at the Quest Nowra. Speakers will include CDRE Chris Smallhorn, Commodore Fleet Air Arm and CDRE Scott Lockey, Commodore, Director General Navy Aviation Systems. RAN and industry representatives will be invited to attend.

Businesses are encouraged to take advantage of the Jobs Action Plan and the Small Business Grant Program. Members of the B&ED Committee are asked to promote these programs to their networks. Information is available from Megan Cleary on 44289 126 or at <http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au/taxes/payroll/jap> or <http://www.osr.nsw.gov.au/grants/sbg>

SUGGESTED ACTION:

For information