

MEETING MINUTES



MEETING NAME: Economy Strategic Reference Group
MEETING PLACE: Council Chambers / Boardroom, located within the Shire Hall, Menangle Street Picton or online via Teams link (which will be provided in the outlook calendar meeting invitation)
MEETING DATE: Thursday 31 August 2023
MEETING TIME: 4pm – 6pm

Members	Present	Apology
Councillor Judith Hannan (Chair)	✓	
Councillor Beverley Spearpoint	✓	
Stephen Gardiner, Manager Sustainable Growth	✓	
Peter Wright, Manage Engagement and Performance	✓	
Kersti Martin, Tourism and Business Support Team Leader	✓	
Karen Kennedy, Senior Administration Officer	✓	
Tim McLeod, Manager Property and Commercial	✓	
Kate Dezarnaulds - Founder - WorkLife	✓	
John Fairley, Community Member	✓	
James Bell, Community Member	✓	
Andrew Moritz	✓	
Geoff O'Brien	✓	
Mark Hardacre	✓	
Councillor Blair Briggs		✓
Bruce McCann, General Council		✓
Alex Hawkins		✓
Brent Hilbrink - Watson		✓
Michael Zammit		✓



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Agenda Items	Notes	Actions
Acknowledgement of Country	Meeting commenced at 4.05pm with Acknowledgement of Country	
Disclosure of Interests	Nil	
Attendance and Apologies	5 Apologies Councillor Blair Briggs Bruce McCann Alex Hawkins Brent Hilbrink - Watson Michael Zammit	
Confirmation of previous minutes	Geoff mentioned he cannot remember seeing a copy of the previous minutes. Suggestion by Chair previous meeting minutes of 20 October 2022 to be deferred to next meeting in November 2023. All were in favour of deferring minutes.	Action: <i>Copy of last meeting minutes – 20 October 2022 to be distributed to members.</i>
Disclosure of Interest	Nil Moved - Mark Seconded - John	
Tourism Advisory Group	<u>Discussion on Tourism Advisory Group minutes of 4 May 2023.</u> Suggestion to take back to the Tourism Advisory Group: Avon Dam – if they are ever going to open area again. Loop Line – continued funding of Loopline project was questioned at a meeting of 4 May 2023.	Action: <i>Avon Dam – send back to Advisory Group – will they open?</i>

Agenda Items	Notes	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Moritz confirmed the Minister is due to attend the NSW Rail Museum this weekend – 2 September, as part of familiarization activities, the commitment to the Loopline is still there and the Environmental Factors are being worked through with Transport NSW. <p>Warragamba Catchment Area – thoughts on the area being opened up for walks?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was advised that not only is it Sydney Water but there were Indigenous Groups upset about people going into the areas. Peter informed about the Land Use Agreement and its affects along with issues with National Parks and Water NSW. Council thinks it's a great opportunity. <p>Blue Mountains / Kanangra Boyd National Park Plan of Management is currently on exhibition if there was an opportunity for Council to put in a submission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to minutes the item was debated at length and was mentioned Water NSW was going to be contacted. Has it had a response? In April / May the Minister flew over Warragamba Dam area. <p>Moved: Seconded: Peter</p>	
<p>Agricultural and Rural Industries Advisory Group</p>	<p>Discussion on Agricultural and Rural Industries Advisory Group minutes of March and June 2023 meetings.</p>	<p><u>Action:</u> <i>Item for next Advisory Group</i></p>

Agenda Items	Notes	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Attacks on stock and what is reasonable force to use. • Idea to take back to Advisory Group – Increase in Deer population • Finance Team were acknowledged for attending meeting discussing Rating Structure. <p>Questioned was asked about actions from meetings and was clarified how actions are directed and address.</p> <p>Cumberland Plain Conservation was briefly discussed. Chair advised it would be good to get a group like Green Collar to come and speak to group. They are groups that do 50% carbon credits and would be good to see how they do things.</p> <p>Chair advised that there will be a review of the Cumberland Plain Strategy and the Koala Strategy.</p> <p>Was suggested what Local Land Service can provide for funding and to provide information to Council on what has been done.</p> <p>Stephen advised that we were arranging for Local Land Service to come and present to next Agricultural and Rural Industries Advisory Group meeting and we can ask that specific question and bring back to the Economic SRG group.</p> <p>Moved: John Seconded: James</p>	<p><i>meeting – Deer invasion.</i></p> <p><u>Action:</u> <i>Thank Ed and Louise for contribution to groups.</i></p> <p><u>Action:</u> <i>Invite Green Collar to come and speak to group on biocertification.</i></p>
<p>Briefings:</p>		

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<p>1. Tourism Local Government Conference</p>	<p>Kersti advised that she attended the conference and gave an overview of what it was about.</p> <p>Was a great opportunity for Council to network with other tourism contacts across NSW, gain visitor insights from Tourism Australian and Destination NSW</p> <p>Wollondilly received 'Top Tourism Town' award. Up against some major locations such as Newcastle, Wollongong, Mudgee. Achieved this through funding for 'Love the Dilly' and bushfire funding which enabled Council to improve its tourism branding and assets (website, video, imagery, itineraries, grow social media followers, new visitor guide)</p> <p>Will Council funding be sustained post the grant funded campaign to continue to grow awareness?</p> <p>The existing budget is considerably less, however the campaign will continue with limited resources and capacity in house.</p> <p>Question on Tiny Homes was taken on notice and will be looked into.</p>	<p>Action: <i>Tiny Homes be investigated and brought back to next meeting</i></p>
<p>2. Visitor Guide</p>	<p>Kersti provided update on the 2023 2024 Wollondilly Visitor Guide which is well received by community and visitors and her team are exploring other opportunities / areas to promote / distribute the guide.</p> <p>Already distributed since April 2023, 4000 copies. Businesses are encouraged to order bulk supplies to share with customers.</p> <p>Questioned how much to print the Visitor Guide?</p> <p>Kersti advised for the 10,000 looking around \$50,000. No cheap, but will be ongoing and will</p>	

Agenda Items	Notes	Actions
	<p>be reviewed as to what the trends are but current guide will be around for the next 2 years.</p> <p>Have fortunately received \$25,000 in advertising so \$25,000 will be needed for the 2025/2026 guide.</p> <p>Good to have the hard copies of the guide as well as digital versions for download or viewing on mobile phones. Brochures on offer at Council, the Library, NSW Rail Museum, Warragamba Dam Visitor Centre, Picton Train Station with A Frame displays encouraging people to view the guide via a QR code at Cedar Creek Orchard, Berrylicious Strawberries and Australian Wildlife Sanctuary.</p>	
3.	<p>Wollondilly Shire Council Voucher Scheme</p> <p>Kersti informed group about the shop local staff voucher system provided to Council staff for various types of rewards / recognition and how the system works.</p> <p>Advised how businesses can join up to be a part of the voucher system. Currently 95 businesses on board an increase of 40% from 2022.</p> <p>Question asked if individuals can purchase from Council? Also a suggestion would be good to give donations for leadership awards to Schools.</p> <p>Kersti advised it's something that definitely can be looked into.</p> <p>Lots of positive discussion amongst group about vouchers, a great initiative and all agreed a good idea.</p>	
4.	<p>Dine and Revitalise</p> <p>Kersti provided information on the Dine and Revitalise Notice of Motion and advised that it is to involve consultation by Council's Tourism AG and the Economic SRG.</p>	

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	<p>Discussion amongst group raised concerns about road closures to accommodate chairs / tables for outdoor dining etc and didn't think it would work in Wollondilly due to number of lanes, road and footpath width etc,</p> <p>Suggested possibility / opportunity for the developers to look at in the new developed areas- to design roads to suit this type of capability.</p> <p>Also suggested the opportunity when the new Performing Arts Centre gets up and running for outdoor dining in the town square etc. Dining shuts pretty early currently and this may entice be café's / restaurants to stay open later when a performance or show is on, something like dinner and show could be offered by businesses or a super and show package.</p> <p>Cr Spearpoint advised that Cafes and Restaurants owners in Warragamba are beginning to put tables and chairs outside for dining and looking at extending their hours to make an after 5 place to dine.</p> <p>Cr Spearpoint and business owners have been discussing a bit of a future thing about how they would like to improve the village in particular with the new airport being close.</p> <p>Mention of Warragamba being a good experiment to close the street off at night and eat outside.</p> <p>Tahmoor also mentioned as an opportunity (back of the shops).</p>	
5.	<p>Maldon Employment Lands Project</p> <p>Stephen provided and joint presentation on both Moreton Park Road (Southern Gateway Business Park) Planning Proposal and Greater Macarthur Scoping Proposal.</p>	

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<p>Greater Macarthur Scoping Proposals</p>	<p>Moreton Park Road Planning Proposal on preliminary notification until 22 September.</p> <p>Will bring employment into the community and a good opportunity.</p> <p>Forecast to provide about 4,600 ongoing jobs.</p> <p>Wilton Industrial Park was presented to group.</p> <p>Forecast to provide 1,511 ongoing local jobs.</p>	
<i>Items:</i>		
<p>WorkLife Picton Co Working Space – Old Picton Post Office</p>	<p>Kate informed group the opening night for Worklife was 30 August and a big success.</p> <p>Opening of space will be first week in September. A few details need to be sorted out ie. IT systems.</p> <p>Several people already signed up – about 25% capacity so far. 11 people signed up so far.</p> <p>Asked how many start ups have signed up? 2 start ups already.</p> <p>Any Indigenous groups signed up? Kate advised that they are slow to begin with.</p> <p>Cr Spearpoint advised the Australian local Government Women’s Association are holding their executive meeting in the Shire Hall in October and hoping that they may be able to get a tour through the hub.</p>	



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<p>Post Election Government Priorities - Open discussion amongst group</p>	<p>James raised questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the vision of the current Government? - How is it particularly fitting into planning for us? - Would like to know the perception of where planning is going? - How much Government support is coming back to Council's in terms of grants? Is there a program that is being looked at for local Government for them to expand and work in conjunction with the State Government? <p>It was clarified that Government is still finding its feet. Until such time budget is handed down in September will determine a lot of things.</p> <p>Productivity Commissioner handed down their information about development in the area. Will be something that will be looked at.</p> <p>Discussion of disfunction between departments.</p> <p>Discussions about Government and what is happening and how it works</p>	
<p>Closure of Meeting</p>	<p>Chair concluded meeting at 6.13pm</p>	



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