

MINUTES

Economy Strategic Reference Group

Date: Thursday 28 July 2022

Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Location: Council Chambers / Boardroom (Shire Hall) and via MS Teams

<i>Members</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Councillor Blair Briggs (Chair)	✓	
Councillor Matt Gould (Deputy Chair)	✓	
Stephen Gardiner, Acting Director Planning	✓	
Shaun Beckley, Executive Planner – Business & Investment	✓	
Chandran Kizhakke Veetil, Senior Strategic Planner - Growth	✓	
Maria Recalde, Acting Developer Contributions Planning Coordinator	✓	
Corrie Swanepoel, Manager Development Services	✓	
Shaun Hilbrink-Watson	✓	
James Bell	✓	
Andrew Moritz	✓	
Mick Zammit	✓	
John Fairley	✓	
Alex	✓	
Mark Hardacre	✓	
Lauren Eade	✓	
Geoff O'Brien	✓	
Steve McMahon		✓

<i>Additional Guests</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Apology</i>
Councillor Brandstater	✓	

Item	Notes	Agreed Actions
1. Acknowledgement of country	Chair gave acknowledgement	
2. Introduction from Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference • Code of Conduct • Meeting Scheduling and timing • Remote Attendance 	<p>Cr Briggs highlighted purpose and importance of SRG meeting and recapped high level purpose & key focus areas of the SRG.</p> <p>A high-level overview of Council’s Code of Conduct and general conduct expected of advisory group members.</p> <p>3 meetings per year however a meeting will be called if an important matter arises.</p> <p>Remote attendance via Microsoft Teams will still be available.</p> <p>Quorum is reached with half the community members plus Chair in attendance.</p>	
3. Disclosure of interests	Chair asked attendees to disclose any conflicts of interest. None stated.	
4. Attendance and apologies	As noted above.	
5. Around the Table Introductions	Attendees introduced themselves with a brief outline of their background and why they applied to be part of the SRG.	
6. CSP Strategies and Delivery Plan Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP alignment summary & Delivery Plan 	<p>Mayor outlined that each Councillor now looks after their own portfolio so they can focus on their own Advisory Group (AG) and SRG and gave a broad framework and overview of this.</p> <p>There are 5 SRGs, each aligned to a pillar in Community Strategic Plan (CSP). SRGs are designed to look at issues from a strategic level, and provide advice or recommendations to Council on priority actions and tasks.</p> <p>Advisory groups are linked to SRGs – Agriculture rural industries AG and Tourism AG linked to this SRG.</p> <p>To ensure balance and consistency there are members that sit on both SRG & AG.</p>	<p>ACTION: SG to circulate CSP overview of key pillars.</p>

	<p>Aerodrome and between Tahmoor and Bargo and asked for an update on this. Stephen Gardiner advised that Wollondilly is currently working on an Addendum with consultant to identify precincts across the Shire. Work is nearing completion on this and Councillors should be briefed soon about outcomes and will bring back to group an overview of the study itself.</p>	
<p>7. General Business</p>	<p>Cr Briggs mentioned that Love The Dilly was launched with \$600,000 grant received and it's a fabulous campaign for Wollondilly.</p> <p>Shaun Beckley spoke of The Oaks Aerodrome project, retaining and providing a conservation pathway for heritage listed runway, to become an aerodrome hub like Thirlmere with the trains. Council is helping to refine concept and ideas and has just received confirmation that the proposal will be considered by State Government. Cr Briggs clarified that it is a sports aerodrome with no heavy aircraft and no night flying, and will still operate as it is now but will become a bit more of a focus for the industry.</p> <p>The Oaks Aviation Club will look into creating a museum as a way to celebrate the history of aircraft.</p> <p>Andrew Moritz gave an update from Heritage NSW about the opportunity to extend heritage train rides on loopline, which has not operated south of Buxton for 30 years, however will now go through to Colo Vale. They are in the preconstruction process by sourcing rail, sourcing sleepers, and completing major maintenance activities. The railway line is still there but has not used for 30 years. This project is on track and should be opening to passengers mid 2023, anticipating June/July period, starting once a week rides to Colo Vale then will increase to twice a week. Community</p>	<p>It was recommended that Council could consider opportunities for education and awareness of career pathways to industries operating in Wollondilly.</p>

concerns were that it provided an opportunity to run freight trains, which is not the case. It will be built for heritage trains only. Platform at Picton Avenue doesn't need interface with ARTC, as it won't be long platform. They will be running regular services between the museum and Picton on weekends. Architects designing now.

Steam Fest 2023 – it was discussed whether it should be held at the same time as the Colo Vale launch. There is consideration and discussion to be held to potentially shuffle dates around to celebrate the launch of Colo Vale line.

Cr Briggs reminded everyone that the group needs to look at economic growth opportunities across the whole shire, not individual townships.

Direct documentation will always be sent to the group to look at and understand key issues at any times in preparation for the meetings. Make sure as a group that there is constant communication, don't wait for the meetings. The group welcomes input at any time.

SRG needs to await public announcements before speaking publicly in community. Certain subjects are commercial in confidence until released.

Resilience is key for the Shire because of Natural Disasters and Covid issues over the past few years – a management plan must be in place for next time the community faces adversity to get businesses back on track.

Discussion that it is difficult to get agricultural employees.

It was recommended that Council could consider opportunities for education and awareness of career pathways to industries operating in Wollondilly.

Prior to bushfires, WSC did not meet Visa requirements but this changes after 2020 bushfires.

Geoff O'Brien stated that Council has been doing a great job of getting messages out since having a Resilience Officer. Must continue to unlock opportunities so that Wollondilly can be the best place for future generations to gain employment. Rotary program has work experience positions, which can work in with this group.

Does Council have a Youth Officer to promote the employment opportunities in the Shire? Worthwhile raising as a benefit for the future.

The Mayor spoke of the geographic spread in Wollondilly and how there are very separate townships until Natural Disasters occur then the whole Shire bands together. Discussion was then held of the need for a combined Chamber rather than individual ones or additional to individual ones. Geoff O'Brien and Lauren Eade previously discussed this, spoke to NSW chamber but not a lot of people from current Chambers were prepared to jump onboard. Shire's businesses should have a single voice in a joint Chamber.

Brett Hilbrink-Watson stated that everyone is more keen to collaborate now after all the adversity the community has faced. There will be more opportunities for businesses if a joint Chamber is established.

Stephen Gardiner advised that Council staff is working in background on an opportunity for regional planning work and rural lands review, to look at work led by council and university, and driving forward opportunities for change.

Biosecurity Action Plan – enquiring travel patterns, and any vaccines to be aware of. The Foot and Mouth Disease can live

	in nasal passages for 5 days. Need to be careful of pigs and encephalitis. High risk if any outbreak in Shire. Shire needs to have a risk management plan for this.	
Meeting close	Councillor Briggs concluded the meeting at 5:51pm	