



Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday 5 February 2014 5.00 pm

Economic Development Advisory Committee	
Item Number	Agenda
1	Welcome/present/ apologies
2	Confirmation of Minutes
3	Business Arising from the Previous Minutes
4	Vacant Committee Member Positions
5	Council Economic Development Projects Update
6	Round Table Economic Sector Updates
7	EDAC Workshop Session Aspirations and Priority Setting
8	General Business
9	2014 Meeting Schedule and Close of Meeting

MINUTES – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5 February 2014



ITEM: 1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Mayor Cllr Maree Statham, Cllr Frank Inzitari, Cllr Ross Higlett, Mick Cairney, Grahame Danaher, Michelle Blackley

Apologies: Paul Toole, Roger Bailey, Kerry Hudson

Officers: Matt Brewster

Declaration of Interests: NIL

ITEM: 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were endorsed by two members of the Committee being:

Councillor Frank Inzitari and Councillor Ross Higlett

COMMITTEE ACTION:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting of March 19 2013 be taken as read and confirmed

MOVED: Cllr Ross Higlett

SECONDED: Cllr Frank Inzitari

ITEM: 3 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Work Planning Session Program was held on Wednesday 12 June 2013 between 5.30 and 8.30 pm

The Workshop session was facilitated by Richard Bawden

Committee members and invited representatives presented information, identified emerging trends, challenges and opportunities for the Lithgow economy

A shared vision and key aspirations for the future economy and place of Lithgow were identified.

The key aspirations identified can now be used to drive and frame the review and updating of the Lithgow Investment Prospectus, Economic Development Strategy as well as the work priorities of EDAC and Councils EDO

COMMITTEE ACTION:

THAT the business arising be noted by the Committee

MOVED: Clr Ross Higlett

SECONDED: Clr Frank Inzitari

ITEM: 4 VACANT COMMITTEE MEMBER POSITIONS

SUMMARY

Council has received resignations from the Committee membership:

Retail and Business Services Sector member - Mr Paul Phillips
Creative/Cultural Industry Sector member - Ms Cassie Harvison

COMMENTARY

Advertising for replacement Committee members was undertaken through the Lithgow Mercury with a closing date of January 31 2014

The Committee reviewed and supported the single application received for the vacant Committee membership position for the Retail and Business Services sector being from Ms Renee Difranto of Bianca Villa in Main St Lithgow

The Committee discussed the need to fill the Creative and Cultural Industry sector member position as soon as possible

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

THAT the Committee recommends the appointment of Ms Renee Difranto to the vacant position of Retail and Business Services Sector representative

MOVED: Clr Ross Higlett

SECONDED: Mayor Clr Maree Statham

ITEM: 5 COUNCIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UPDATE

SUMMARY

Council is leading the delivery of a number of key projects that have an economic development focus. These include the 2013 Local Environmental Plan, Lithgow CBD Revitalisation Action Plan, Lithgow CBD Business Attraction and Retention Program, Main St Façade Improvement Program, Economic Development Strategy and Investment Prospectus. Council also recently submitted applications to the NSW Governments Resources for Regions grant fund program

COMMENTARY

Matt Brewster presented a brief summary of the status of each one of these key projects and the Resources for Regions grant application to the Committee:

The 2013 Local Environmental Plan was reported to Council on February 3 2014

Consultants have been appointed to prepare the Lithgow CBD Revitalisation Action Plan

The Lithgow CBD Business Attraction and Retention Program has successfully delivered shop local promotions including Mothers Day in May, Halloween in October and Lithgow in December. A program of business development courses during the latter half of 2013 attracted around 20 participants per session. More courses are scheduled for the first half of 2014. "Shop Main" St banners have been distributed to interested participating businesses along Main St Lithgow and Portland to support promotional activities and weekend trading

The Lithgow App is ready to be launched featuring a large range of local businesses

The Lithgow Tourism guide will for the first time include a double page spread featuring Lithgow CBD businesses

Councils Economic Development Strategy and Investment Prospectus are due for updating during 2014.

Council's application for funding for the Portland Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade has made it to the second round of the NSW Government Resources for Regions funding.

Applications continue to be made to Councils Main St Façade Improvement Program seeking partnership funding. Recent partnerships have resulted in improvements being delivered to the following Main St buildings:

- Stitches
- Black Rock Café
- Bianca Villa
- Lithgow Laundry
- Harvey Norman

Council has also been approached during January 2014 by 3 other building owners/business operators seeking information for funding under the program.

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT the Committee notes the progress being made with Councils major projects and the Resources for Regions Grant Application

MOVED: Cllr Frank Inzitari **SECONDED:** Cllr Ross Higlett

ITEM: 6 ROUND TABLE ECONOMIC SECTOR UPDATES

SUMMARY

Committee members provided the Committee with a summary of issues, trends and happenings in their particular sector.

COMMENTARY

The Committee received sector updates from various Committee members present.

Michelle Blackley updated the Committee on the status of operations at the Wallerawang Power Station including reference to proposed operational changes and employment

Grahame Danaher updated the Committee on recent proposals by Westfund to develop an administration and medical services centre on the old RSL site in Lithgow

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT the Committee notes the information provided by Committee members

MOVED: **Clr Ross Higlett** **SECONDED:** **Clr Frank Inzitari**

ITEM: 7 WORKSHOP SESSION ASPIRATIONS AND PRIORITY SETTING

SUMMARY

The Committee held a workshop session between 5.30 and 8.30 pm on Wednesday 12 June 2013 in Council Chambers to gain an overview of regional and local governance, identification of key economic drivers for the region and Lithgow and to establish a set of key aspirations that would guide the Committees decision making and set work priorities

COMMENTARY

The 9 key aspirations arising from the workshop were discussed in detail by the Committee.

There was agreement that the 9 key aspirations could be condensed into 7 namely:

Grow Together

- Collaboration via a shared "sense of place"

Grow our Connectivity

- New expressway, upgraded highway and railway infrastructure and NBN Communications in place

Grow our Industry Sector

- Foster stability, diversification, innovations and stabilisation

Grow a Regional Educational Destination

- A centre of progressive and specialist education offering preschool to tertiary facilities

Grow a Regional Best Practice Medical Hub

- A best practice integrated model for GP's specialists and allied professional services

Grow our Destination Appeal

- Vibrant and attractive retail, cultural, recreational and town and village precincts for residents and tourists

Grow an Artisan Food Sector

- Foster a niche agricultural industry producing local foods, value adding facilities and restaurants

Mick Cairney proposed that the Committee look at summarising this further into 3 key aspirations:

1. Grow our Industry Sector including medical and education etc
2. Grow our Sense of Place with a focus on supporting the community etc
3. Grow our Destination Appeal with attractions, lifestyle and food etc

Mick Cairney also proposed to undertake some further strategic framework thinking around these 3 aspirations in partnership with Councils EDO and report this back to the Committee

The Committee identified 4 key action areas that the Committee would work on in partnership with Councils EDO and external stakeholders:

- Increasing visitation and investment within Lithgow's town area through marketing and promotional activities
- Further identifying and investigating new industries that can co-locate with the Wallerawang and Portland Power Stations to provide additional employment and economic outputs for the Lithgow LGA
- Exploring local and regional opportunities associated with logistics and freight transport including road, rail and air
- Progressing the opportunities for new economic development embodied in Councils endorsed 2013 LEP

COMMITTEE ACTION

THAT the Committee notes the 4 key action areas identified.

MOVED: **Clr Ross Higlett** **SECONDED:** **Clr Frank Inzitari**

ITEM: 8 GENERAL BUSINESS

Grahame Danaher suggested that EDAC members approach the Lithgow Business Association in order to identify ways to increase opportunities to communicate economic development issues and actions into the local business community.

ITEM: 9 2014 CORE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2014 AND CLOSE OF MEETING

- 5 – 6pm Wednesday 9 April 2014**
- 5 – 6pm Wednesday 9 July 2014**
- 5 – 6pm Wednesday 8 October 2014**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.30 pm