

ATTACHMENTS



ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2015

~ REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENTS ~

PART B – INFORMATION

Page Number

Clause 4B – Meeting Minutes 49-51

**Minutes of the Cobar Shire Council Economic Taskforce
Meeting No.7 held in the Council Chambers on
Thursday 10 September 2015 commencing at 2:06pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Peter Yench
Councillor Peter Abbott
Councillor Greg Martin
Councillor Marsha Isbester
Councilor Bob Sinclair
Gary Woodman (General Manager)
Angela Shepherd (Special Projects Officer)
Heather Christie (Community Representative)
Stephen Taylor (Director of Engineering Services)
Stephen Poulter (Acting Director of Planning and Environmental Services)
Kym Miller (Director of Corporate and Community Services)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Jarrod Marsden

Resolved: That the apology of Councillor Jarrod Marsden be noted and accepted.
(Angela Shepherd/ Cllr Peter Abbott) **CARRIED**

INSPECTION OF COBAR YOUTH AND FITNESS CENTRE

An inspection of the Cobar Youth and Fitness Centre was undertaken. A discussion was had looking at what activities take place each week and who the users are. Attendees also received a briefing on the grants that have been applied for and the one successful one and what is envisaged for the Centre. The meeting then adjourned back to the Council Chambers.

PUBLIC ACCESS – MICHAEL BROPHY – A PILOT TRAINING SCHOOL FOR COBAR

This item was deferred to the next meeting as Michael Brophy was called into work.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: The minutes of the previous Economic Taskforce Meeting held on 25 June 2015 was confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.
(Cllr Bob Sinclair/ Heather Christie) **CARRIED**

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

An update was asked for regarding options for a new supermarket to Cobar. No formal update could be provided.

Clr Yench announced that a Carbon Farming Conference will be held in Cobar at the Cobar Bowling and Golf Club on 26-27 October 2015. It will be a 2 day event and he encourages anyone interested to attend. It is being held by the Local Land Services (LLS).

DISCUSSIONS ON HAVING ONE (1) MANAGER FOR THE COBAR MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL AND THE COBAR YOUTH AND FITNESS CENTRE

Clr Yench asked for costings, the proportion of people using the services and business plans for both services. He would like to encourage the new gym managers to take on the CYFC noting it may require a \$100,000 annual subsidy for several years to provide the community service aspect of the Centre. He would like to place an EOI into the Sydney Morning Herald to encourage someone to take on the management of the Centre who would run more activities and spend more money on the Centre.

These options were not pursued.

TOURISM

A verbal report was presented outlining the boost Cobar has received in tourism this season. It was noted that for the months of May, June and July that there was a 20% increase in tourists to the Great Cobar Heritage Centre, up from 8,000 for the three months the year before to 9,500 in 2015. Other Cobar businesses experienced a similar increase.

An area of growth is the family market. In the last school holidays, there was a 25% increase in the number of families visiting the Centre from the same period the year before. Over the last five years, family visitation has increased 60-70%. They are mainly coming from Sydney and are visiting Outback NSW in preference to the coast as it is accessible for the holiday period and more affordable. It was noted that facilities such as the skate park and pool need to be promoted.

The Manager of Tourism and Public Relations is very keen to get a tourism focused website in the coming months. It is evident from talking to people and the phone calls received at the Centre that people have trouble finding the information they are looking for on Council's website.

Another opportunity continues to exist in finding an operator to run a town tour. Could also include areas such as Mount Boppy and Mount Grenfell.

This financial year, \$80,000 will be spent on the balcony of the Centre, CSA are investing \$60,000 to redo their display and John Martin is talking to Peak about the possibility of them also rejuvenating their display. John has been using Community Service Order workers and has managed to get a great deal of cleaning up and maintenance done that would not have otherwise been possible.

Tourism Management Plan –

Kym outlined that a new Tourism Management Plan is being created that will have three key pillars to it:

- A new IT friendly website;
- Continued involvement in the Kidman Way Committee as a key to promoting Cobar, however increasing some Cobar centric promotion;
- How to keep people in Cobar longer (ideas floated included better promotion of the bush experience and nearby villages, Towsers Huts, the Peak shaft and having a good quality access road to Mount Grenfell).

A discussion was had about who should be involved in constructing the plan and how to get the tourism operators involved. It was noted that we need to look at getting more money from the NSW Government to promote Outback NSW.

INDEPENDENT LIVING – AN UPDATE ON THE BRENNAN CENTRE AND THE PROPOSED MULTI-PURPOSE HEALTH SERVICE

An update on discussions regarding a proposed MPHS for Cobar was provided, along with the processes planned for community consultation. There was some concern that Ivanhoe received a MPHS and it was in an inferior building and provided an inferior service. Attendees asked if there would be a tour of other MPHS services during the consultation process.

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion on the NBN was had and a letter from the Cobar Business Association was tabled. It was noted that in February 2016, the NBN will be in Cobar to commence planning with the community.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 2:00pm.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3:50PM