

Mid North Coast AGM & Ordinary Meeting Of The Regional Advisory Council

Agenda

8:00am – 10:00am

Thursday, 16th September 2021

Information provided in this pack is included to promote discussion at RAC Meetings

No.	Time	Item	Responsible
1	8:30 am	WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE	Kellon Beard
2	8:32 am	APOLOGIES	Kellon Beard
3	8:35 am	CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS	Kellon Beard
4	8.40 am	PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES	Kellon Beard
5	8.45 am	MATTERS ARISING/ACTION LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES	Kellon Beard
6	8:50 am	ELECTION OF PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT	Kellon Beard
7	8:50 am	ELECTION OF REGIONAL COUNCILLORS	Kellon Beard
8	8:52 am	PRESIDENT'S REPORT (verbal)	Grahame Nash
9	9.00 am	REPORTING OF STATE COUNCIL (verbal)	Grahame Nash
10	9:15 am	REGIONAL MANAGER'S REPORT (attached)	Kellon Beard
11	9:20 am	BEE/INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS (verbal)	Gary Scott & Graham Morgan
12	9:25 am	??????	All
13	9:30 am	STATE POLICY AND ADVOCACY UPDATE	All
14	9:35 am	GENERAL BUSINESS	All

<i>IN-CONFIDENCE</i>

15	9:35 am	CLOSE	All
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Next meeting: 21st October 2021, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

1 Welcome And Attendance

The meeting was declared opened at 8:00 am by Grahame Nash and everyone was welcomed, and apologies were noted.

Councillors:

Mr Graham Morgan, (Deputy Regional President) Morgan Human Resource
Mr Grahame Nash, (President) Nash Solutions
Mr Gary Scott, Macleay Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mrs Kate Wood-Foye, Charles Sturt University
Ms Kerry Grace, Regional Development Australia
Mr Neville Parsons, Regional Australia Bank
Mr Terry Goodall, Dolphin Marine Conservation Park
Mrs Kate Wood-Foye, Charles Sturt University
Mr Roy Wilkinson, Akubra Hats

Staff:

Mr Kellon Beard, Regional Manager, Business NSW Mid North Coast
Mrs Maree McEntyre, Regional Coordinator, Business NSW Mid North Coast

2 Apologies

Mr Gary Gilbert, North Coast Fire & Security
Mrs Melissa Bartlett, Bartlett Accounting
Ms Natalie Mitchell, (Board Member) Capital Office Business Solutions Management

3 Conflicts Of Interests

No conflicts of interest were raised

4 Previous Meeting Minutes (24 June 2021)

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24 June 2021 were accepted as an accurate record, moved by Gary Scott and seconded by Terry Goodall .

5 Matters Arising/Action List From The Previous Minutes

All matters that were raised at the meeting held on 24 June are to be covered off in this meeting.

6 Election of President & Vice President

Kellon called for nominations for the election of President of the Regional Advisory Council.

Grahame Nash stood unopposed as the President of the Regional Advisory Council. His nomination was accepted and seconded by Gary Scott.

7 Election of Regional Councillors

Graham Morgan was elected as the Vice President of the Regional Advisory Council. His nomination was accepted and seconded by Gary Scott

Kellon advised there are currently nine Councillors and a number of Councillors have decided not to stand again, they include John Goddard, Megan Lewis and Kelly Lamb.

Kellon read out the election of members to the Regional Advisory Council.

Nominations are:

- Gary Scott
- Grahame Nash
- Kate Wood-Foye
- Kerry Grace
- Roy Wilkinson
- Graham Morgan
- Terry Goodall
- Neville Parson

Kellon declared these positions filled and no election was needed and Kellon declared the AGM closed at 8.15am.

8 President's Report

Grahame Nash gave his report on the following topics:

- The effect COVID/lockdown was having on the Coast especially in Tourism and Hospitality industries which then inevitably trickles down to other business been affected. Concern of continuing threats of further lockdowns
- The Bigger Back Year launch in August with good media coverage
- The Regional Presidents meeting with the NSW Treasurer The Hon Dominic Perrottet discussions were on planning on the recovery of coming out of COVID and looking for solutions from the business community. Grahame said there was a win with the COVID job saver reporting period of fortnightly, being reassessed to a monthly period
- Freshen up tourism collateral for when international borders are opened up

- Ongoing issues with supply chain regarding Qld boarder continuing closure
- Regional Housing
- Protection for employers if they insist their employees get the job
- August Zoom meeting with the LCC Presidents and Pat Conaghan Federal Member for Cowper. Issues that were discussed in the meeting were:
 - ✚ hospitality tourism staffing shortages
 - ✚ fast tracking visas
 - ✚ mental health assistance being ramped up
 - ✚ agricultural workers like blueberry pickers having temporary housing problems
- Meeting with John Goddard on the Strategic Action Plan
- Business NSW Council of Presidents meetings were run in August
- Membership around 55,000 with 3,200 voting paid members
- Business NSW still strong
- Business conditions survey conducted last month with two main issues resulted from the survey – (1) the impact of the lockdown in 2021 is greater on small and medium size businesses than the lock down in 2020, (2) some questions from the survey on liquidity and reserves that businesses have with the general response there has been a substantial reduction in their reserves

9 Reporting Of State Council

Grahame Nash covered off this in his report

10 Regional Managers Report

Kellon spoke to his report which included the following:

- Regional Business Awards now will be a virtual event, not a face to face due to COVID restrictions
- Attended a Business Council Australia wrap-up meeting of their donations to the regions. Kerry Grace briefed the RAC of that meeting with high profiled audience such as Peter Crossgrove and Senator Bridgit McKenzie. Topics included business disaster preparedness to disaster mitigation
- Kellon advised he will be pushing for mistakes made during disaster recoveries, be recorded and stored with Resilience NSW for future learnings
- BCA gave out subsidies to businesses who were affected by disasters for grants, one was for re- tooling and the others to provide accounting and or legal advice
- Kate added she would make contact with Kerrie and Kellon to discuss further CSU's project they are currently working on with resilience
- The roll out of the Bigger Back Yard on the MidCoast with 80 plus businesses signed up
- Lobbying on wage subsidies
- Concerns with people losing their subsidies from the Federal Government when coming out of lockdown regarding their hours of work

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- Kellon confirmed that the State Government is looking at picking up the tab for the COVID disaster payments in non- lockdown areas
- Kellon advised Ben Riley meets with the Treasurer regularly
- Kellon working with health on mass vaccinations in industrial areas/bigger sites with credited health workers
- Webinar coming shortly with our lawyers on mass vaccinations in the workplace
- Kellon advised he has had a conversation with Jane Laverty from Northern Rivers about Norco who are keen to do a trial on vaccination
- Kellon's understanding the Vaccination Passport will be an app that will be available through Service NSW
- Kellon spoke on how Mid North Coast could be a region to trial the vaccination passport

11 BEE/Infrastructure Reports

Gary Scott spoke on the BEE/Infrastructure meeting with discussions mainly around COVID issues. Graham Morgan spoke on discussions on Power Sub Stations running at a loss. The treat if the facility closes in Sydney, testing will have to be done overseas. Graham reported one of the electrical providers owns the facility and they are looking for a \$2 million subsidy to keep it running.

Gary Scott spoke on other discussions from the meeting:

- Land release strategies
- Affordable housing concepts
- Issues with commercial land lords receiving government grants
- Gary and Graham added the BEE/Infrastructure meeting was not inspirational

Graham Morgan spoke on Chris Lamont Small Business Commissioner who is working closely with Business NSW on businesses applying for grants and receiving knock backs.

12 ???????

Grahame Nash spoke of his concern on land development in his area that the infrastructure is very old. Grahame Nash suggested the government should look at older areas and subsidize the costs so development can occur.

Gary Scott suggest a separate grant made available for commercial tenants where they can apply for rent relief.

Graham Morgan said the Small Business Commissioner's office would be a good point to start for businesses who were having issues with Service NSW.

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Gary Scott spoke about businesses loosely indicating that if they want to open for business, they will need to have a policy in place to screen potential clients entering their premises.

Graham Morgan advised the RAC he was attending a Zoom meeting on the topic of policies in the workplace on vaccination. Graham will supply the RAC with a report on the outcome of the meeting.

Neville Parsons added if an employer insists on vaccination for their staff it would be in the limb of work, health and safety.

Neville said there will be discrimination cases if unvaccinated people are denied entry to businesses.

Graham Morgan added you need to look at the circumstances of each business as there's not going to be a 'one size fits all' situation.

Graham Morgan said he is working with his clients on justifying their COVID vaccination policies.

Kerry Grace added she sits on the committee North Coast Health along with Kellon, and they have been approached to find major employers who would like to do mass vaccinations on site in their workplaces. Kerry asked the RAC if anybody knows if anyone is interested to contact her.

Kerry advised they have North Coast Football on board with 4,500 members.

Kate Wood-Foye spoke on the 'education world' and the challenges they have with their health students, who have been asked to be fully vaccinated. As a whole, CSU are encouraging all staff and students to be vaccinated but this has not been mandated yet.

Kate said they have been working with different providers on potentially utilizing the university as a maximum vaccination space.

Kate also added they (CSU) are meeting daily to work through the legalities of what they are going to do in terms of mandating vaccination and making it compulsory for every student to be vaccinated, but now it's just the health facing students.

Kate will provide an update at the next RAC meeting on how CSU are handling this situation.

Neville suggest getting the jab at the supermarket.

Kerry advised she was speaking to a health care provider who said a small percentage of his workers are choosing to resign in lieu of being vaccinated.

Gary Scott expressed concern in some local areas on the Mid North Coast of a slow take up on vaccination weather this is because of a supply problem.

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Kellon advised the RAC he has received confirmation from Kate Thomson from Australian Business Lawyers and Advisors (ABLAC), there is no issue asking staff if they have been vaccinated.

13 State Policy And Advocacy Update

This agenda item was noted as been addressed by Kellon in his report

14 General Business

Graham Morgan raised the issue of supply your annual wage bill for a Certificate of Currency with icare. Kellon responded by saying he would raise this with Elizabeth. Grahame Nash raised the following dot points to be followed up with NSW Treasury:

- certificate of currency
- no commercial tenant rental assistance, this time round
- land development costs issues
- tendering for government contracts

15 Close

Meeting closed at 9:35 am.

Next Meeting:

8:30 am – 9:30 am Thursday, 2nd September 2021

Signed:

President (Chair) Mid North Coast RAC

Mid North Coast Regional Advisory meeting dates for 2021 have been set as:

- Thursday 2 December