



Date: Thursday, 29 October 2020 - 3pm to 4.30pm
Location: Online - Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

ATTENDEES	<p>Regional President: Bruce Mackenzie (Humanforce) Anthony Bell (Harrison Manufacturing); Paul Bagnall (Bagnall Associates); Sylvia Kidziak (SL Engineering)</p> <p>Sydney Business Chamber/ Business NSW: Katherine O'Regan (Sydney Business Chamber), Ben Riley (Business NSW)</p>
APOLOGIES	Simon Harrop (Straight Ahead Sales); Omar Afiouni (The MAP Institute); Debra Fraser (Warringah Chamber of Commerce)

	AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER/ACTIONS
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Apologies: Noted and all absent were accorded a leave-of-absence.</p>	Bruce Mackenzie
2	<p>Katherine O'Regan – Sydney Business Chamber Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney Business Impact Survey: COVID-19 Results Report with Sydney Business Chamber, CBD Sydney Chamber of Commerce and Vincents Accountants. Report includes what businesses have done to adapt, how businesses have changed. Report being finalised in the next week. • Submission: City of Sydney - Proposed pedestrianisation of George and Devonshire Street. SBC is broadly supportive of Council's aim but concerned this could impact service and maintenance vehicles and delivery to small businesses along George Street. • Draft Proposal: Revitalisation of Oxford Street - 5 big ideas to revitalise a major high street. • Thought Leadership Paper: Nighttime Economy - on the Night Worker. The research will identify human movement data – phones, GPS, transport, two case studies and interviews with stakeholders who represent a range of night time workers. 	<p>Katherine O'Regan</p> <p>Action: Set up a forum to discuss findings for ESRAC and Local Chambers.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought Leadership Paper: Freight & Logistics. Promote discussion and challenge some of the existing approaches good delivered in cities. Return to work in the CBD - SBC return to work plan w/c 9 November. 	
3	<p>Policy Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return to office - videoconferencing style meetings do not suit normal office environment when staff on various zoom calls in enclosed space. Business Conditions Survey – uptick business confidence, signs of economic recovery coinciding with easing of restrictions. Large number reliant on foot traffic in CBD most vulnerable. Assist business by advocating return to office – current health order makes it difficult to get people back to office. Try to get restrictions lifted – open borders. Greg Binskin has joined the team as Executive Manager, Tourism. Greg has a policy and commercial background, worked for DNSW and will lead the charge in this important sector. 	Ben Riley
4	<p>Covid 19 Discussion – Return to CBDs/Office</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality sector especially smaller venues given 4 square metre rule. Employers are concerned and uncertain as to their legal obligations to ‘force’ employees to return to the office. This is further complicated if the employee is a vulnerable or living with a vulnerable person. Lifts and public transport remain perceived safety points or barriers to return to office, although in reality as many offices remain at low occupancy levels social distancing in lifts is often possible. Employers also concerned about mental health impacts of 	All



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	<p>working from home. Can and have addressed physical requirements for WFH through assessments and supply of office equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many employers giving employees flexibility of hours and location of work.• Not being required to work in a specific office location is being seen as a way for employers to attract talent that they may not previously had access to.• Different businesses are taking different approaches to WFH dependant on their risk assessment and type of work. No businesses wants to be an outlier so following others.• Opening up of domestic borders seen as really critical to get the economy back up and running and opening up of international borders is critical for supply chains	
5	General Business	

Next ESRAC Meeting

- Thursday, 25 February 2021 - 3pm to 4.30pm

Next ESRAC Forum

- Thursday, 11 February 2021 - 3pm to 4pm - Streets and Public Spaces - Grants for Small Business - Guest speaker - Planning NSW