

PORT STEPHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL CHARTER

Overview

The Port Stephens Economic Development Advisory Panel (EDAP) was established in response to the findings and recommendations of the Port Stephens Council Economic Development Strategy, which was adopted by Port Stephens Council in December 2007.

The establishment of the EDAP demonstrates Port Stephens Council's commitment to engagement with business and the community on long term sustainable economic development issues.

Economic Vision:

The Port Stephens Council Economic Development Strategy sets out a clear vision for the future of Port Stephens:

- Port Stephens will be an innovative and growing community that maintains its liveability and a balanced population structure, while generating sustainable long term economic opportunities.
- It will have a strong economic base, built on its competitive strengths in manufacturing, defence industries, services and tourism.
- It will provide a high quality environment for residents and visitors and its local communities and will provide diverse employment opportunities.
- It will be a community which is integrated with its region (Newcastle and the Hunter) and which is linked to national and international markets.

Economic Objectives:

The six objectives set out in the Port Stephens Council Economic Development Strategy are supported by a raft of requirements:

1. Maintaining a balance
2. Broadening the employment base/ creating skills for the future
3. Developing key sectors
4. Building foundations for growth
5. Strengthening small businesses
6. Providing regional leadership

Objectives	Requirements
<p>1. Maintaining a balance</p> <p>< Population, environment, housing></p>	<p>1.1 Encourage more balanced population growth that includes younger families and mature persons.</p> <p>1.2 Encourage retention of younger persons through education and training opportunities and employment opportunities.</p> <p>1.3 Ensure that future planning, housing options (including housing affordability) and services reflect the requirements of this population structure.</p> <p>1.4 Ensure that the quality of the environment is maintained and enhanced.</p>
<p>2. Broadening the employment base/ creating skills for the future</p> <p><Employment and skills development></p>	<p>2.1 Encourage a broader employment base and the development of higher skill jobs.</p> <p>2.2 Ensure that local employment opportunities grow at the rate needed to support a larger population.</p> <p>2.3 Improve the skills base of the community through targeted education and training programs.</p> <p>2.4 Improve skills of small businesses.</p>
<p>3. Developing key sectors</p> <p>< Business and industry development></p>	<p>3.1 Encourage the development of an aviation/defence industry cluster around Newcastle Airport.</p> <p>3.2 Encourage development of the region's engineering industries at Tomago.</p> <p>3.3 Encourage further development of the tourism sector through broadening markets.</p> <p>3.4 Encourage the growth of existing businesses in the LGA.</p> <p>3.5 Attract major new businesses and organisations to locate in the area.</p>
<p>4. Building foundations for growth</p> <p><Employment land and infrastructure></p>	<p>4.1 Ensure that adequate employment lands are available to support future industry growth.</p> <p>4.2 Ensure that infrastructure is available to support growth requirements.</p> <p>4.3 Link Port Stephens internally and to the region through improved public transport.</p> <p>4.4 Ensure a strong ongoing integration between place planning and economic development.</p>
<p>5. Strengthening small businesses</p> <p>< Business support and facilitation></p>	<p>5.1 Ensure support is available for local business development.</p> <p>5.2 Encourage the development of local business networks.</p>
<p>6. Providing regional leadership</p> <p><Leadership, engagement and partnering></p>	<p>6.1 Providing active leadership on economic development issues that affect the future of Port Stephens.</p> <p>6.2 Representing the community and its interests to other tiers of government.</p> <p>6.3 Involve local business and the community in economic development activities, through the economic advisory panel, taskforces and regional forums.</p> <p>6.4 Develop partnerships with adjacent Councils on broader regional development issues.</p> <p>6.5 Work with key regional stakeholders on long term development of Port Stephens.</p> <p>6.6 Ensure active engagement between Council and business and the community on economic development.</p> <p>6.7 Partner with other tiers of government in delivering programs to boost economic development.</p> <p>6.8 Target and engage with major businesses and government organisations that can be attracted to Port Stephens.</p>

Role of the EDAP:

The Port Stephens Economic Development Advisory Panel (EDAP) will operate primarily as a strategic thinking organisation with a responsibility to develop local leadership, ensure input is provided to Port Stephens Council on local economic development issues and promote Port Stephens to secure long term jobs, investment and prosperity.

Members of the EDAP are expected to represent the broad interests of the Local Government Area rather than those of any particular organisation(s).

Functions of the EDAP:

The functions of Port Stephens EDAP will include:

- Overseeing the implementation of the Port Stephens Council Economic Development Strategy
- Advising Port Stephens Council on current and future economic development and employment issues,
- Providing leadership and guidance on matters of current economic importance in the Port Stephens area,
- Promoting economic and employment growth in the Port Stephens area,
- Identifying opportunities to grow the local economy and fill gaps left by the market,
- Investigating initiatives, projects or studies that will lead to employment growth and strengthen the profile of Port Stephens as a business location,
- Developing local leadership and promoting local economic development initiatives
- Assisting the local community to capitalise on regional strengths, to broaden the industry base and develop new markets,

Activities of the EDAP:

The Port Stephens EDAP will:

- Meet approximately four times each year, once each quarter,
- Consider a quarterly report from the Economic Development Manager on the implementation of the Port Stephens Council Economic Development Strategy,
- Provide input and feedback into the activities of the Economic Development Unit,
- Identify solutions and strategies to strengthen and further develop the local economy and to address local issues,
- Nominate Taskforces for specific projects, as required,
- Operate within the framework of the Port Stephens Council Code of Conduct.

Appointment to the EDAP:

Members of the Port Stephens EDAP are appointed by Port Stephens Council.

Members are appointed on the basis of their capability and expertise to contribute to the economic development and growth of Port Stephens.

It is expected that members of the EDAP would have expertise in one of the following areas:

- economic development at a local or regional level
- successful business and/or management experience
- business and/or local networks
- academia and/or higher education relevant to economic development
- community initiatives that contribute to local economic development

Membership is determined in order to be representative across the major industry sectors and economic drivers within the Local Government Area, as well as across all three Port Stephens Council Wards.

The EDAP will have a maximum membership of 13, with no requirement that all positions be filled.

Membership of the EDAP will be confirmed by Port Stephens Council, on an annual basis for the financial year.

Membership may be terminated by a member with one month's notice in writing.

Administration

Administration support and secretariat for the EDAP will be provided by the Port Stephens Council Economic Development Unit.

Recommendations and minutes of EDAP meetings will be reported to Port Stephens Council by the Economic Development Manager.