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# MINUTES

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## Local Government Economic Development Network

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- Online via Zoom
- 9.30am to 11.30am

Attendees; Andrew Benson (Southern Midlands Council, Manager - Community and Corporate Development), Bruce Williams (City of Launceston, Economic Development Officer), Carol Bracken (Cradle Coast Authority, Program Manager - Regional Futures Plan), Carolyn Coates (Hobart City Council, International Relations | Economic Development, Engagement and Strategy | Community Life), Craig Perkins (RDA Tasmania, Chief Executive Officer & Director Regional Development), Daryl Connelly (Cradle Coast Authority, Chief Executive Officer), David Allingham (Brighton Council, Manager Development Services), Deanna Hutchinson (Cradle Coast Authority, PhD Candidate), Erin McGoldrick (Glenorchy City Council, Manager City Strategy and Economic Development), Georgie Brown (NTDC, Projects Manager), Hannah Allwood (Kentish & Latrobe Councils, Economic and Tourism Development Officer), Helen Thomas (King Island Council, Growth & Strategy Manager), Jen Newman (RDA Tasmania, Regional Development Coordinator), Karly Herighty (Clarence City Council, Economic Development Officer), Kevin Turner (RDA Tasmania, Regional Development Coordinator), Lorraine Green (Northern Midlands Council, Project Officer), Lyndal Whiteley (Waratah Wynyard Council, Project Officer), Matthew Seward (Circular Head Council, Director Strategic Governance), Matt Skirving (Devonport City Council, Executive Manager City Growth), Michele Gibbins (West Tamar Council, Manager Community), Mike Brindley (RDA Tasmania, Regional Development Coordinator), Samantha Searle (Waratah-Wynyard Council, Director Organisational Performance), Sheena Hannan (Glenorchy City Council, Economic Development Coordinator), Tanya Denison (Cradle Coast Authority, Future Energy Hub).

Apologies; Lucy Knot and Luke Doyle (City of Hobart, Rebecca McKenna and Carol Bryant (Devonport City Council), Jess Dallas (Derwent Valley Council), Christine Gray (West Coast Council), Heidi Willard (Central Coast Council), Jennifer Archer (Latrobe Council)

### 9.30am to 10.10am

Presentation: Daryl Connelly, CEO Cradle Coast Authority, presentation slides available [here](#)

### 10.10am to 10.30am

Presentation: Tanya Denison, Future Energy Facilitator Cradle Coast Future Energy Hub, presentation slides available [here](#)

### 10.30am to 11.30am

Roundtable:

Andrew Benson Southern Midlands Council Manager - Community and Corporate Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tasmanian Community Fund workforce and employment project through to next stage of assessment.</li><li>• Callington Mill distillery project on track</li><li>• New Oatlands swimming pool \$6M project</li><li>• Drive Journey; helping Tourism Tasmania and State Growth with the central Tasmanian drive journey</li></ul>
Bruce Williams City of Launceston Economic Development Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commenced planning for City of Launceston's new economic development strategy</li><li>• Assessing the number of businesses that haven't reopened doors in the CBD (e.g. commercial and professional services as well as retail and hospitality)</li></ul>
Carol Bracken Cradle Coast Authority Program Manager - Regional Futures Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mentoring service</li><li>• Regional priority list including coastal pathway project for Wynyard through to Latrobe</li><li>• 1 year review of Regional Futures Plan to lead to a bigger strategy review at end of year 2.</li><li>• Grant applications for a program to help with career pathways and transitions into different industries that might not be well known opportunities.</li></ul>
Carolyn Coates Hobart City Council International Relations   Economic Development, Engagement and Strategy   Community Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unfortunately we couldn't get Carolyn's audio to work</li></ul>
Craig Perkins RDA Tasmania Chief Executive Officer & Director Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• COVID-19 focussed, providing intelligence to the Australian Government's Assistant Minister for Regional Development weekly as well as intelligence gathering with stakeholders</li><li>• Finding the opportunities to help regions recover</li></ul>
David Allingham Brighton Council Manager Development Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brighton industrial hub branding and placemaking – who has any recommendations on how to do this well, including consultants?</li><li>• Hydrogen action plan – opportunities for Brighton industrial hub</li><li>• Brighton's new high school and 100 hectare masterplan for housing and commercial to integrate the community around the school.</li><li>• Masterplan for Brighton school farm site with Dept. Education</li><li>• Masterplan for park in Gagebrook</li><li>• Delivering Masterplan for park in Brighton \$2M</li><li>• Sport and rec new infrastructure projects \$6M</li></ul>
Deanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Researching entrepreneurship and how do we support those that</li></ul>

<p>Hutchinson Cradle Coast Authority PhD Candidate</p>	<p>help entrepreneurs (eg Chambers of Commerce, government programs, business advisors) in regional and rural places.</p>
<p>Erin McGoldrick Glenorchy City Council Manager City Strategy and Economic Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb 2020 – new Economic Development Strategy launched. It has an asset-based approach developed with extensive stakeholder engagement which has helped its intentions weather the impact of COVID-19.</li> <li>• March - \$1.3M Glenorchy Employment Hub, partnered with State Government</li> <li>• Local Government stimulus loan, \$5m economic recovery package (\$3.5M capital works and \$1.5M operational) for 2020 through to 2023</li> <li>• Telephone survey by a team of 4 contacting all businesses</li> <li>• Directory of businesses</li> </ul>
<p>Georgie Brown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circular Economy with ASPIRE to facilitate better use of waste streams</li> <li>• Reviewing regional priority projects in mind of COVID recovery</li> <li>• Surveyed stakeholders and had good feedback on new projects, programs and policy ideas</li> <li>• Concierge Program – funding a position that will entice skill migrants and assist them and their families to identify employment, housing and any other needs to help them settle.</li> <li>• Smart cities project for Internet-of-Things testing with Office Coordinator General and Definium Technologies</li> <li>• Regional Collaboration Framework is a new group to find, improve and endorse regional projects</li> <li>• Population Coordinator is connecting people with jobs,</li> <li>• Planning a jobs expo and a mental health/resilience workshop</li> <li>• Business continuity workshops to help them be resilient to shocks and disruptions</li> </ul>
<p>Hannah Allwood Kentish &amp; Latrobe Councils Economic and Tourism Development Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting with local business and industry at the grass roots level</li> <li>• Commenced work on new Economic Development strategy. Who has done community and business surveys to gather information for a strategy?</li> <li>• Visitor Information Centre redevelopment– looking for experts on their design?</li> <li>• Will soon be recruiting for a new Economic Development Officer if people in the network can help share it with potential candidates</li> <li>• Wild Mersey MTB is going well with Latrobe to Sheffield link</li> <li>• Grants and awards submissions with local businesses</li> </ul>
<p>Helen Thomas King Island Council Growth &amp; Strategy Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeing the opportunity in the crisis and it has helped get the key stakeholders (chamber, regional development group, tourism organisation and Council) to agree on an Economic Recovery Strategy and agree on sharing actions.</li> <li>• Become the emergency recovery coordinator, it feels like the gap between social and economic recovery is huge. Who else is working in emergency recovery and has any ideas on how to integrate the social and economic sides?</li> <li>• Business and community surveys, but as soon as it is sent things change and someone else send out a similar survey.</li> <li>• Will Business Tasmania conduct another survey and how can King Island partner to promote responses and get back some of the information?</li> <li>• Travel restrictions means very little people movement and projects stop until they can come. Example of property valuations needed to</li> </ul>

	<p>help refinance or sell properties. Working with State controller to improve the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No date for easing of travel restrictions means golf tourism and associated accommodation really struggling</li> </ul>
<p>Jen Newman RDA Tasmania Regional Development Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SERDA Economic Infrastructure Plan by KPMG is completed. This updates the 2015/16 plan and brought on the recruitment of Andrew Hyatt as employment facilitator.</li> <li>• Helping the Office of the Coordinator General to create a southern investment prospectus.</li> <li>• ID Profile COVID data set is worth checking out to compare your LGA against the region, the state and other LGAs.</li> <li>• Work with the Tasmania branch of the Australian China Business Council</li> </ul>
<p>Karly Herighty Clarence City Council Economic Development Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SERDA report does need to be finalised</li> <li>• SEDA got funding for the Enterprise Centre South East and are appointing a business advisor</li> <li>• Designing a business hub website as a one-stop site to help businesses find information, including employment and training.</li> <li>• Revising their Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>• Designing an Economic Recovery Plan</li> <li>• Looking at Business East and transitioning that organisation into a Chamber of Commerce. Currently have 80 members so scope to increase.</li> <li>• Investigating creating a business directory that is easy to populate and update.</li> <li>• Major developments still progressing; Kangaroo Bay and Rosny Hill</li> <li>• Structure plan for 350ha residential site at Drought Point.</li> <li>• Richmond Tourism Industry Group reboot with Destination Southern Tasmania and creating a Destination Plan.</li> <li>• Reviewing the investment prospectus to highlight Cambridge area and how it connects with the airport.</li> <li>• Hobart City Deal; South-East traffic solution.</li> <li>• Application in for the State Government's loan program.</li> </ul>
<p>Kevin Turner RDA Tasmania Regional Development Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on projects on food and the creative industries.</li> <li>• Finishing a report on a 2019 survey into Local Government infrastructure projects.</li> </ul>
<p>Lorraine Green Northern Midlands Council Project Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pandemic recovery coordinator. Keen to connect with Helen at King Island on shared issues.</li> <li>• Working for the Business Association to connect with businesses to help people prepare safety plans</li> <li>• Promoting workplace mental health and positivity.</li> <li>• Working with tourism operators, the tactic is not to drop rates but to provide incentives like entertainment such as Voices from the Graves performance experience</li> <li>• Setting up 'time-out' centres via Family and Sexual violence grant in each community</li> <li>• Painting tree blue to promote mental health</li> <li>• Connecting NBN from Longford through to Cressy to support new Police Station</li> <li>• Prioritising and preparing expenditure on infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Ross swimming pool review to consider closing. Who knows how to engage a community through such a process and who are good facilitators to help the Council with the Ross community?</li> </ul>

<p>Lyndal Whiteley Waratah Wynyard Council Project Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cradle Coast Arts and Culture working group and in the Cradle Coast Authority Core Team. Galleries and venues have been hit hard. Two projects: 1) a regional register of assets and programs, 2) Grant applied for arts funding to be announced in July to link multi-generational artists</li> </ul>
<p>Matthew Saward Circular Head Council Director Strategic Governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy: Jim's Plain windfarm to go to next Council meeting.</li> <li>• Have been researching and assessing the costs and benefits to the municipality from wind farms and are designing governance for steering groups, models for developer's community contributions, management of road networks and population shortage for workers and the effects of high demand for limited resources (e.g. gravel contractors) and the flow on effect for other industries and projects.</li> <li>• Population project to convert visiting workers into permanent residents.</li> <li>• COVID phone surveys via a third party to check on businesses and direct them to support has been most effective compared to emails and social media.</li> </ul>
<p>Matt Skirving Devonport City Council Executive Manager City Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living City project, current work is escalated to accelerate infrastructure spend. Reviewing design in light of COVID to see if Living City needs modifying. A private developer is looking at a site for mixed development on the northern side of the CBD. Next phase for Council is focussed on outlying CBD retail precincts.</li> <li>• State Vehicle Entry project in partnership with State Government to improve the ferry terminal area</li> <li>• COVID response opportunities includes taking Council owned land parcels to market to trigger commercial developments.</li> <li>• Reviewing the working relationship with developers, particularly those from the mainland, to educate them on community vision and attitudes so new developments have an idea what to expect.</li> <li>• Regional Land Use Strategy is 12 years into its 30 years so interested in how the Cradle Coast councils want to review it. Some proposals have been knocked back due to the RLUS.</li> </ul>
<p>Michele Gibbins West Tamar Council Manager Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on COVID plan</li> <li>• Helping sporting and community groups to implement WorkSafe plans and promoting these to businesses.</li> <li>• Council to decide on two Capital Stimulus Packages.</li> <li>• Development and building applications are still holding.</li> <li>• Assisting businesses with grant writing to help them access support.</li> <li>• Legana Structure Plan still progressing.</li> <li>• Fermentation Tasmania still interested in site at Legana and is hoping to secure public funding.</li> </ul>
<p>Mike Brindley RDA Tasmania Regional Development Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasmanian Logistics Committee</li> <li>• Writing a paper on renewable energy in Tasmania</li> </ul>
<p>Samantha Searle Waratah-Wynyard Council Director Organisational Performance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Recovery; developing an evidence based recovery plan along with industry stakeholders.</li> <li>• Developing a social and economic recovery grant program to target opportunities for stimulus.</li> <li>• Council's masterplans and strategies, the masterplans require an investment of \$58 million over next 10 years, opportunity to bring forward projects that support local employment, will apply for Tas Gov loan and should have \$10M for new capital projects in 20/21 budget.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This includes flood mitigation and coastal erosion projects, recognising the need to be resilient to climate change events in the future.</li> <li>• ANZAC park all-abilities destination playspace is being developed.</li> <li>• Coastal pathway from Cooee to Wynayard begins construction next financial year.</li> </ul>
Sheena Hannan Glenorchy City Council Economic Development Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week 5 into the job</li> <li>• Launched the new online business directory called Activity City (<a href="https://activitycity.com.au/">https://activitycity.com.au/</a>)</li> </ul>
Tanya Denison Cradle Coast Authority Future Energy Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per Future Energy Hub presentation</li> </ul>

**EDA Update:** news from the Tasmania branch of Economic Development Australia, presentation slides available [here](#)

**11.30am**

**Next meeting** will be hosted by Luke, Lucy, Iris and Carolyn at the City of Hobart in August, date TBC

# MEETING SUMMARY

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## Local Government Economic Development Network

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

### Help the network:

An aim of this network is to connect economic development practitioners to help them to do their jobs more effectively. The meetings are a chance to put out calls for help, suggestions and recommendations – here's what came up in the meeting:

- Economic Development Strategies:
  - City of Launceston, Clarence City Council, Kentish & Latrobe Councils are reviewing or preparing new strategies
  - Can you help with surveys for business and community, templates and general advice on good ideas and pitfalls to avoid?
- Industrial Precincts:
  - Brighton Council are conducting a placemaking and branding exercise for the Brighton Hub.
  - Can you help recommend consultants and share knowledge from own experiences?
- Entrepreneurship
  - Deanna Hutchinson's PHD research is looking at support for entrepreneurs.
  - Can you help complete a survey about the north-west's support for entrepreneurs?
- Visitor Information Centres
  - Kentish Council are looking to upgrade the Visitor Information Centre
  - Can you help recommend consultants to help with the design? Do you have experience or knowledge from similar projects that could help them?
- Emergency Recovery Coordinators
  - For Council officers who are the nominated Emergency Recovery Coordinator (Lorraine Green at Northern Midlands Council, Helen Thomas at King Island Council) it has been challenging to integrate the social and economic sides of recovery.
  - Can you help explain how this works in your municipality?
- COVID-19 Impact Survey Information
  - What information has been collected by surveys and support services (e.g Business Tasmania) and can be shared with Councils to help understand what's happening in their municipality?
  - Can you help access survey information that is suitable for sharing?
- Community Engagement for Local Decision Making
  - Northern Midlands Council are reviewing the future of Ross' swimming pool and want the community to be engaged in the decision
  - Can you help recommend a facilitator?

**Survey results:**

For network meetings in the future 66.7 per cent though stick to virtual rather than transition back to face-to-face.

The most popular extra activities were meetings of the minds on specific topics (e.g. tips and tricks of grant writing, masterplans for urban revitalisation, economic development strategy essentials etc) and *linking with a leader* events (e.g. renowned economic development practitioners, politicians, heads of industry).

All respondents wished to participate in a sub-group focussed on the new economic development challenges of recovery.