

GRIFFITH BUSINESS CHAMBER INCORPORATED | Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 | Griffith Leagues Club | 5.30pm

## MINUTES

Meeting opened: 5.35pm

**APOLOGIES:** NIL

**ATTENDING:** Pat Pittavino, Paul Pierotti, Amanda Quarisa, Josh Nadzielski, Dean Owen, Sara Pixely, Peter Schirripa

### **1: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Read & accepted as being a true and correct version of events.

**Moved:** Paul Pierotti

**Seconded:** Dean Owen

**Motion carried**

### **2: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

NIL

### **3: CORRESPONDENCE IN / OUT: Since last Executive Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

- In**
- Beyond Bank Statements / My Credit Union Statements
  - TAFE NSW update of contact details/positions and ONE TAFE Structure
  - Griffith Leagues Club – Club Grant Scheme
  - Invitation to Official Opening of Griffith Renal Unit – (Pat attended)
  - Invitation to MLHD - Progress Meeting (Pat attended)
  - Inland Rail invitation to set up a meeting
  - Christmas Cards – Griffith City Council, Sussan Ley
  - Griffith City Council – 2019 Events
  - Various Invoices
- Out**
- NSWBC Energy Agreement 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019
  - Beyond Bank – change of signatories documentation
  - Dept of Fair Trading A12-T2 form – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018
  - NSWBC Business Awards Feedback
  - Submission: Draft Riverina Murray Important Agricultural Land Mapping
  - C2Hills Re: MDBA Decentralisation 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2019
  - Monthly E-Newsletters

### **4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:**

NIL

### **5: FINANCIALS**

Peter Schirripa emailed financials prior to meeting.

**Moved:** Josh Nadzielski

**Seconded:** Sara Pixely

**Motion carried**

## **6: AGENDA**

### **Buy Local Campaign**

Live Local. Love Local. Buy Local was the campaign message leading up to Christmas of 2018. A TV and radio campaign was conducted and businesses could also jump on board to support the campaign, by using our top and tail version. Both WIN TV and Radio sales representatives canvased businesses.

Chamber continue to educate the community about the importance of buying local

There are many benefits of buying local, not just a Christmas time, but all year round. The money stays within the community which strengthens our local economy, creating jobs. Our local businesses are the backbone of a community and support charity groups with donations and sporting sponsorships, so the community should show their support by shopping with them.

How does buying local impact the community?

If every person in our region spent an extra \$5 a week in the local community instead of online or elsewhere, it would add an extra 24 million dollars per year to our local economy. \*Source Economy ID Nov 2018.

The positive impacts are; create 218 jobs, pay for new facilities, increase new development...making our area a better place to live.

The feedback received was great for the TV campaign. No feedback was received so far for radio.

Amanda to follow up with WIN TV and Radio re: approaching businesses to join the Buy Local campaign. Amanda to also follow up Radio for a post times report, as some committee members felt there wasn't enough exposure on radio. It was raised about ongoing advertising to re-inforce Buy Local all year round, not just a Christmas. The committee decided following feedback from the media, will determine how to proceed in the future. Peter and Sara will also look at a budget forecast to help committee decide on where to spend money.

### **Shopping out Town**

It was raised the amount of people who travelled to Wagga for Christmas. The assumption is because of the loss of BIG W. It was debated that people travelled out of town for a variety of reasons and there are loads of other factors that contributed. Paul and Josh will conduct a main street analysis so the Chamber can see where there are issues and try to help businesses.

### **Business Awards**

NSWBC has gone through a new re-structure and key personnel have resigned. Because of this, obtaining information re: 2019 Business Awards has been slower than previous years. The new contact Aielish was extremely helpful and pledged her support to helping Griffith. The city of Griffith is also top contender for location of the 2019 Regional Awards, but not confirmed. Preparations will start soon with sponsorship proposals to prepare and present soon. Amanda has already spoken to a few 2018 sponsors who are keen to re-sponsor. The event is pencilled in for mid July with nominations opening 6 weeks prior.

### **MDBA / TAFE Decentralisation**

Decentralisation is one of GBC's 10 Point Plan for Griffith to Thrive and Prosper. We are pleased to hear cabinet are actively considering the regionalisation of the Murray Darling Basin Authority. It's an excellent opportunity for Griffith to put its hand up and reap the multitude of benefits which include; decision makers seeing first hand the impacts and benefits of water on the economy, it would make Griffith a leader on a national and international stage for irrigation practices, it's a chance to bring white collar professionals to Griffith - businesses, education, and medical services in the town are set to benefit as well. Pat has spoken on ABC radio and discussed with Austin Evans this opportunity.

TAFE are also looking for a hub for their regional office, GBC see's this as another opportunity.

Paul Pierotti suggested Chamber engage the services of C2Hills to put together a white paper, which is a useful document to present to the right decision makers.

Seconded: Josh Nadzielski

### **Survey / 10 Point Plan**

The Annual Survey was conducted in Dec 2018. Amanda feels the timing wasn't great and extended the closing to January. Feedback has been slow and will summarise the information for the Executive to review after one more push for members to respond. Wording of the 10 point plan needs review and more explanation on how each point

affects local businesses. This is available on our website however. Each month in the newsletter it will focus on one point to clearly define.

### **Finances**

Peter presented financials and advised committee he would like to take the time to review and get a feel for the process. Peter has rectified a few online banking issues, will review GST and if GBC need to be registered. Peter and Amanda will continue to liaise to ensure a smooth process. It was decided that members who join from April onwards will receive those months at no charge and their membership will take them through to the following financial year. Paul would like to see a budget to assess future expenditure. With a few key members who haven't renewed, it was asked that we approach them with a membership offer.

### **Regional Forum**

Paul Pierotti has begun to organise a Regional Development forum with Maryanne Slatery – from Australia Institute and former MDBA employee, along with Gabirelle Chan – Investigative Journalist for The Guardian, and author best selling book The Rusted Off. The event is pencilled in for 7<sup>th</sup> February at The Griffith Leagues Club.

Debate was raised about the purpose and the marketing of such an event, it is forum, presentation etc. The Exec committee are to brainstorm wording and ideas to make the event attractive. Eg: Get the real truth about how we can grow the region. Understand the issues about lack of infrastructure and how it affects your city.

### **Rail Noise**

There has been a noticeable increase in train movements especially throughout the middle of the night. The impacts range from noise, dust, safety and more. It is impacting residents and businesses. For decades, Chamber's position on this issue has been to attempt to get the rail freight terminal moved from the CBD. We have been very supportive and there has been many promises and the promises have been broken over a long period of time. The time to move is well overdue will Paul will investigate all avenues to expedite this matter and support the move.

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Solar Farms: Paul raised a concern that another DA has been submitted for solar farm and believes it shouldn't be developed on prime irrigation farming land, as it has a massive roll on effect to the economy.

Motion: Chamber does not support solar farming on prime irrigation land within the MIA.

Seconded: Peter Schirripa

Against: Sara Pixley

Abstained: Amanda Quarisa

Gross Regional Product: Josh and Paul will continue to investigate and keep probing into the reduction of the GRP.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

Next Executive Meeting: 2 months time. Exact date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 8.05pm

Amanda Quarisa | Secretary