

# **Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee**

Minutes

Tuesday 1 April 2025



**Minutes of the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee****Held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025 at the****Cooke Park Pavilion, 17 Welcome Street, Parkes****Present:**

Cr Marg Applebee	Councillor
Cr Joy Paddison	Councillor
Cr Doug Pout	Councillor
Cr Glenn Wilson	Councillor
Mr Peter Giles	Community Representative
Mr Andrew Hall	Community Representative
Ms Kelly Hendry	Community Representative
Mr Steve Lindsay	Community Representative
Mr Andrew Rice	Community Representative
Ms Tracie Robertson	Community Representative
Ms Treen Swift	Community Representative

**Council Officers in Attendance:**

Mr Anthony McGrath	Director Customer, Corporate Services and Economy
Mrs Carrie Olsen	Executive Manager Economy and Engagement
Ms Bec James	Communications and Engagement Specialist
Ms Lisa Moon	Tourism and Visitor Services Coordinator
Ms Katie Nash	Economic Development Specialist
Ms Carolina Cruz	Events and Festivals Specialist
Mr Brendan Shipley	Festivals Producer

**NOTES**

The meeting commenced at 10:32am and concluded at 12:10pm.

## Order Of Business

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## 1 OPENING OF MEETING

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The meeting was declared open at 10.32am, by interim Chairperson, Cr Marg Applebee.

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## 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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Parkes Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land. I would also like to pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Wiradjuri Nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal peoples from other nations who are present.

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## 3 APOLOGIES

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Mayor Neil Westcott, Cr William Jayet, Greg Nash, Kristy Berry and Marty Sammut-Paul.

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## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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Nil.

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## 5 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

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Nil.

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## 6 LATE BUSINESS

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Parkes Shire Council General Manager, Kent Boyd, joined the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee to discuss the proposed Energy Recovery Facility at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

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## 7 OFFICERS' REPORTS

<b>7.1 COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>
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**RESOLVED EDAAE 001/25**

Moved: Mr Andrew Rice

Seconded: Ms Kelly Hendry

That the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee:

1. Adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee, appended at *Annexure A*.

**CARRIED**

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<b>7.2 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON</b>
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**RESOLVED EDAEA 002/25**

That the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee:

1. Appoint Andrew Rice as Chairperson, pursuant to clause 6.1 of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

**CARRIED****DISCUSSION:**

Andrew Rice and Steve Lindsay were nominated by members of the Committee. All voting members were asked to raise their hand to vote either for Steve Lindsay or Andrew Rice.

Andrew Rice received Four (4) votes and Steve Lindsay received Three (3) votes.

Andrew Rice was elected as chairperson.

**7.3 CODE OF CONDUCT COUNCIL POLICY****RESOLVED EDAEA 003/25**

Moved: Mr Steve Lindsay

Seconded: Ms Tracie Robertson

That:

1. The Committee receive and note the Code of Conduct Council Policy appended at *Annexure A*.
2. The Committee members acknowledge their obligations under the Code of Conduct Council Policy.

**CARRIED****DISCUSSION:**

Andrew Rice highlighted the importance of committee members being engaged with the topics for discussion and raised concern with resolving matters that have not been considered by all.

Carrie Olsen highlighted the need for committee members to review business papers prior to meetings and express their thoughts and insights during the meeting.

**7.4 COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT****RESOLVED EDAEA 004/25**

Moved: Mr Steve Lindsay

Seconded: Ms Tracie Robertson

That:

1. The information contained within this report be received and noted by the Committee.

**CARRIED****DISCUSSION:**

Carrie Olsen provided an overview of current strategies and plans under the Committee's oversight.

Kelly Hendry requested a copy of the Parkes Shire Signage Strategy.

Carrie Olsen noted Kelly's request and confirmed that an abridged copy of the internal document, which currently includes extensive construction detail, will be provided to the Committee out of session.

## **7.5 MAJOR EVENTS AND FESTIVALS STRATEGY**

### **RESOLVED EDAEA 005/25**

Moved: Mr Steve Lindsay

Seconded: Ms Kelly Hendry

That:

1. The Committee receive and note the briefing on the development of the Major Events and Festivals Strategy, as detailed in this report.
2. The Committee resolve to take the draft Major Events and Festivals Strategy to Council for public exhibition and endorsement.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Carrie Olsen introduced the Events and Festivals Strategy and welcomed Stu Spiers to present on the draft document.

Stu Spiers highlighted the strategic insights that had been captured in the Events and Festivals Strategy and noted several of the recommended action items for Council to undertake based on the strategy findings.

Carolina Cruz added that the strategy had been developed through thorough consultation and is evidenced backed. This approach will ensure future major event decisions are guided through logic and community interest rather than personal preference.

Treen Swift raised the concern of seeking engagement during the months of May and December, which are challenging for some community members, due to seasonal agriculture demands.

## **7.6 2024 PARKES SHIRE BUSINESS "LISTENING REPORT"**

### **RESOLVED EDAEA 006/25**

Moved: Ms Kelly Hendry

Seconded: Ms Treen Swift

That:

1. The information contained within this report be received and noted by the Committee.

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Katie Nash presented findings from the listening report to the Committee.

Kelly Hendry enquired about work undertaken by the Parkes Business Chamber.

Tracie Robertson confirmed the Parkes Business Chamber is continuing to operate, with a small number of active participants. The Chamber has rebranded to Business Parkes and is encouraging new community members to get involved.

## **7.7 ECONOMIC TRACKING REPORT**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. The Committee receive and note the briefing on the Shire's Economic Snapshot.

Due to time constraints, Katie Nash was unable to present the economic insight findings to the Committee. This item will be tabled again for the next meeting.

## **7.8 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. The information contained within this report be noted by the Committee.

Due to time constraints, Katie Nash was unable to discuss the Community Improvement District grant funding application with the Committee. Should the application result in a successful outcome, this item will be tabled at a future meeting.

## **7.9 DESTINATION MARKETING UPDATE**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

1. The information contained within this report be received and noted by the Committee.

Due to time constrains, Bec James was unable to provide an update on Destination Marketing for the Parkes Shire.

## **7.10 TRUNDLE ABBA FESTIVAL 2024: POST EVENT REPORT AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **RESOLVED EDAAE 007/25**

Moved: Mr Andrew Hall

Seconded: Ms Treen Swift

That:

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1. The information contained in this report be received and noted by the Committee.

**CARRIED**

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**DISCUSSION:**

Kelly Hendry queried the provided budget, seeking clarification on the distinction between salary and workforce expenses.

Carrie Olsen clarified that internal salaries represents expenses for the dedicated events team, while workforce expenditure pertains to on-the-day or short-term work undertaken by the broader Council workforce.

Kelly Hendry queried whether there would continue being a budget allocation for the Trundle ABBA Festival; Carolina Cruz confirmed the likely budget outcome is that Council will not directly fund the Festival, but would continue providing support through grant funding and Council event staff support.

Steve Lindsay expressed concerns about removing the ticketing income component of the event, and the potential heat associated with a February event.

Carolina Cruz noted that February is the proposed event date under the Open Streets Grant Program, necessitated by the grant funding criteria, and there may be opportunities to adjust the event timing if the grant submission is successful.

Cr Applebee noted that the Trundle Community Consultative Committee has the opportunity to seek Council funding support through the Council Events Financial Assistance Program or Trundle Town Improvement Fund.

Cr Patterson emphasised the community's eagerness for an October event date.

Andrew Hall asked if allocated internal staff costs would continue to be used to support Trundle.

Carolina Cruz confirmed that resources are provided for recipients of the Events Financial Assistance Program. Carrie Olsen added that contract roles designated specifically for the Trundle ABBA Festival would not be reinstated.

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<b>7.11 PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL 2026: PROJECT UPDATE</b>
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**RESOLVED EDAEA 008/25**

Moved: Ms Kelly Hendry

Seconded: Mr Steve Lindsay

That:

1. The information contained within this report be received and noted by the Committee.

**CARRIED**

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**DISCUSSION:**

Carolina Cruz provided a brief update on the 2026 Parkes Elvis Festival.

Brendan Shipley discussed prospective changes and improvements for the upcoming event.

Kelly Hendry congratulated the team on the foundational status achievement for the Parkes Elvis Festival. She also enquired about maintaining community involvement.

Brendan Shipley confirmed efforts to stagger scheduling, improve activations and provide greater opportunities for businesses to be involved with the event.

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**7.12 LATE BUSINESS: PARKES ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY****DISCUSSION:**

Kent Boyd, General Manager of Parkes Shire Council, attended the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee to discuss the Parkes Energy Recovery facility.

Kent noted that the proponent has made no formal lodgement, as the project is still in the concept phase. Scientific studies and the entire project scope have not yet been undertaken. Environmental safety regulations must be abided by before the facility can be approved.

Andrew Hall questioned the short community consultation period.

Kent Boyd clarified that this is an informal stage, and it is our understanding that the proponent will need to develop a community consultation plan as part of a formal application.

Steve Lindsay asked if Council could block the proposal if deemed unsafe.

Kent Boyd responded that while Council lacks legislative power, political pressure could be applied if necessary.

Cr Wilson noted the importance of community support in the planning approval process, adding that social equity is paramount for the project.

Treen Swift referenced the positive relationships between the Danish community and the Copenhagen Energy Recovery facility but shared concerns about the role of RGDC (Regional Growth Development Corporation).

Treen Swift also questioned whether Council could facilitate information sessions with key stakeholders.

Cr Wilson added that older waste-to-energy plants do not meet modern standards, emphasising the need for updated research and best practice approaches.

**8 REPORT OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Nil.

**9 CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed at 12.10pm, by Chairperson, Andrew Rice.

Next meeting/s:

- Tuesday 27 June 2025
- Tuesday 16 September 2025
- Tuesday 2 December 2025

This is the final page of the meeting minutes comprising of 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Economy, Destination and Events Advisory Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 1 April 2025.