

ITEM 11

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR TANIA BROWN - ESTABLISHMENT OF POST-COVID PEAK BODIES TASKFORCE

Councillor Tania Brown has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council establish a Post-COVID Peak Bodies Taskforce to work together on ensuring that Wollongong and our regional economy is best placed to recover from this pandemic.
- 2 The Taskforce membership is to include, but not limited to, all Councillors, Executive and local peak bodies such as Illawarra Business Chamber, Destination Wollongong, Property Council and Regional Development Australia (Illawarra). The Taskforce will bring together key stakeholders to address the economic challenges facing our region.
- 3 The General Manager move responsibility for the Economic Development Unit into the Office of the General Manager, to demonstrate the commitment of the region to growing our economy and build on our ambition to promote Wollongong as a progressive place to do business and as a site for the decentralisation of government jobs.
- 4 A report to Council be provided, or Councillor Briefing held, by 1 April 2021 to update on progress.”

**Background provided by Councillor Tania Brown:**

Conscious that NSW Health are the lead agency throughout the pandemic, but recognising that we need to play a leadership role in ensuring our economy recovers, we need to be best placed to promote Wollongong and do all we can to emerge from this crisis with a plan ready to roll out.

The Economic Development Unit is tasked with attracting business and industry to Wollongong, but this pandemic has presented unforeseen hurdles and a renewed focus may be needed in a crowded marketplace to sell our potential. Traditional methods of business development and market attraction have been challenged and a new approach may be required to cut through.

A Taskforce approach gives us an opportunity to combine our strengths and identify where we can make an impact. The recent City Deal collaborative demonstrated to all levels of Government that we can work well together as a region and achieve genuine outcomes.