

---

**BUNDABERG CBD REVITALISATION**  
**COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP (CRG)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

HELD AT THE FUNCTION ROOM, COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON  
**THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 2018 COMMENCING AT 5.30 PM**

---

**PRESENT:**

*CRG Members* - Trish Mears, Grant Davies, Adam Curran, Peter Donaldson, Glenn Hopwood, Tracey McPhee, David Job, Matt Knott, Gordon Hard (QPS) and Councillor Helen Blackburn (as CRG Chair).

*Council* - Mayor Jack Dempsey, Cr Wayne Honor, Cr Ross Sommerfeld, Cr Steve Cooper, Dwayne Honor (Project Manager), Ben Artup (Executive Director Strategic Projects & Economic Development), Chris Sampson (Manager Strategic Projects), Robyn Laing (Stakeholder Engagement Support)

*Consultant* - Dominic Powell, HASSELL Studio designer

**APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were tendered for - Peter Heaps, John Greenhalgh, Kylie Goodman-Jones, Wayne Turrell, Peter Marles, Stuart Randle, Adam Wyatt and Evan Fritz.

The Chair noted that Steve Cooper had stepped down from his position on the Community Reference Group but would continue to attend Meetings in the position of Councillor.

**BUSINESS OF MEETING**

1. Confirmation of Minutes – 1 February 2018 accepted

The Minutes from the last Community Reference Group Meeting held on 1 February 2018 were tabled and accepted.

2. Project Update – Mayor Jack Dempsey

Mayor Jack Dempsey advised that the Quantity Surveyor's valuation of the scope of works had increased the project cost to approximately \$32 Million. Whilst Council has the option to undertake the project in stages, it wants to leverage State and Federal Government funding opportunities seeking contribution of approximately \$20 Million to construct the complete design, as one whole project, instead of several components and different stages.

The Mayor acknowledged the excellent design work undertaken by Hassell Design Studios to date and stated that Council is committed to completing the design of the CBD Revitalisation. He further advised that the Department of Transport and Main Roads was yet to commit to the overall traffic management plan for Quay Street and the CBD area. Upcoming projects such as the proposed East Bundaberg flood levee bank and flood gates near Kennedy Bridge resulting from the flood mitigation study, may affect the traffic management in the CBD and surrounding areas. Council would like to see these unknown factors resolved before commencing the project to ensure a smooth completion of the CBD Revitalisation. He stated that the CBD Revitalisation is a generational project that needs to be done right. Council wants the best outcome and government funding to support the project. With the design plans in place, Council will be in a good position to lobby for funding. The scope of works has been extended to include the Tantitha Street section between Woongarra Street and Quay Streets.

Mayor Dempsey further stated that this project has led to other ideas to enhance the CBD for traders and shoppers. He made reference to other development opportunities Council is expecting to take place in the next couple years.

Ben Artup referred to last Meeting's discussions around attracting foot traffic in the CBD particularly during construction and stated that Council would like to support this group (and a broader trader group) by providing resources to organise and help implement their ideas. Council is employing a retail focused person to engage with the traders and initiate place activation. The Meeting was informed that the Australian Retailers Association had advised that it is normal for 40-49% of retailers to leave retail businesses each year and that it is not just Bundaberg experiencing closure of businesses in their CBD.

Cr Steve Cooper stated that the actions of Council to sponsor the place activation initiative was a sound concept and that putting this project on hold was not a big issue considering the opportunities for making the CBD project bigger and better while also having the place activation up and running before construction commences.

CRG Member, Grant Davies stated that shops were not renewing leases because of the perceived disruption from the proposed construction work and requested a definite timeline for construction of the CBD Revitalisation so traders can undertake business planning with some confidence.

Mayor Dempsey advised that Council was looking at commencing the project in 2020 however, if funding was available at an earlier date, Council could bring the project forward with notice of 6 months to the traders.

The Chair advised there was an opportunity to undertake small projects now that would result positively on the CBD. She acknowledged that businesses were doing it tough and referred to the appointment of a Place Activation Manager; stating that the momentum created with place activation can continue through construction.

The Meeting was advised that whilst Bundaberg's unemployment rate is high, particularly youth unemployment, Bundaberg had the second highest job creation statistics in the last Queensland Census.

CRG member, David Job enquired about the possibility of constructing some footpaths prior to commencement of the overall project. The Chair advised that if Council starts a project, it will not be eligible for funding support.

Dwayne Honor requested the Community Reference Group to continue to meet to give the project team input to complete the design of the CBD Revitalisation which is expected to carry through until the end of the calendar year.

It was proposed that the next CRG Meeting for 5 April 2018 be changed to a CBD Traders Meeting to discuss the new place activation initiative. At this Meeting, the project team will undertake some consultation for the design.

This concluded the business of the CRG Meeting at 6.30 pm.

**Cr Helen Blackburn**  
**Chairperson – Bundaberg CBD Community Reference Group** |