



EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

6 AUGUST 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING** of **ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 6 August 2024**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Executive Support on 6393 8391.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Employment and Economic Development Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 3 JULY 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1238

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Industry & Business Engagement Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee was held on 3 July 2024. The minutes are attached for adoption.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The shopping/gift card referred to in item 4.2 is unfunded in Councils budget.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Economic Development Community Committee at its meeting held on 3 July 2024.
- 2 That Council determine recommendation 4.2 from the minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting of 3 July 2024:
 - 4.2(1) *The Orange City Council does not renew or continue to underwrite the Think Orange Region gift card.*
 - 4.2(2) *That Business Orange are approached to gauge their interest in operating the card, and if there is no interest the program is allowed to lapse.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Economic Development Community Committee from its meeting held on 3 July 2024 be adopted.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The supporting information is included in the attached agenda.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 EDCC 3 July 2024
- 2 EDCC 3 July 2024 Agenda, D24/67987 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 135 BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 3 JULY 2024

COMMENCING AT 8:00 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr J Evans, Cr F Kinghorne, Mr Reginald Kidd (via phone), Ms Julia Andrews (Temas), Mr Garry Norton, Mr Michael Banks, Mr Robert Alford, Mr Craig Hort, Mr Russell Tym, Mr Timothy Hall, Ms Ned Sweetapple, Acting Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Manager Economic Development, Business Projects Officer

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Cr J Evans/Mr T Hall

That the apologies be accepted from Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr M McDonell, Mr Darryl Curran, Ms Amy Gormly and Mrs Michelle Smith for the Economic Development Community Committee meeting on 3 July 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr M Banks/Mr T Hall

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 10 April 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 10 April 2024.

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 NED SWEETAPPLE - ORANGE 360 - CURRENT VISITOR MARKET TRENDS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1106

Ned gave an overview of the Orange 360 structure, vision and mission. Ned also highlighted that Orange 360 have the responsibility of marketing product that they do not have control over.

There was a brief overview of the program Localis and the data it shows. Currently it is showing visitor numbers are down, as is spending, as a result of the current economic climate.

Ned believes that the local events have the potential to grow but the limiting factors such as volunteer base, costs, having businesses to run all constrain this growth.

Cr Evans left the meeting with the time being 8.36am

4 GENERAL REPORTS

4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CIRCULATION FOR COMMENT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1082

RECOMMENDATION

Mr C Hort/Mr G Norton

That the Committee provide feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategy on a Page document by 9 July 2024.

4.2 THINK ORANGE REGION CARD

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1103

RECOMMENDATION

Cr F Kinghorne / Mr T Hall

That the Committee make a recommendation to Council on the future of the Think Orange Region card with the following recommendation(s):

1. The Orange City Council does not renew or continue to underwrite the Think Orange gift card.
2. That Business Orange are approached to gauge their interest in operating the card, and if there is no interest the program is allowed to lapse.

4.3 SPENDMAPP DATA UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/931

RECOMMENDATION

Mr G Norton/Mr R Alford

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the Spendmapp Data Update for the month of May.

4.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1105

It was agreed that the Manager of Economic Development would liaise with Ms Julia Andrews regarding the CSU relationship with Transgrid.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr C Hort/Mr T Hall

That the Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be updated.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.17AM.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

3 JULY 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, 135 BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Wednesday, 3 July 2024** commencing at **8:00 AM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Tony Boland on 6393 8250.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr J Evans, Cr F Kinghorne, Mr Reginald Kidd, Mr Alex King Elphick, Ms Erika Vass, Mr Wayne Sunderland, Mr Garry Norton, Mr Michael Banks, Mr Robert Alford, Mr Craig Hort, Mrs Michelle Smith, Mr Anthony Doyle, Mr Tony Healey, Mr Russell Tym, Mr Timothy Hall, Ms Kath Logan, Mr Grant Gill, Mrs Catherine Lawrence, Mr Darryl Curran, Ms Julia Andrews, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Manager Economic Development, Business Project Officer

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Economic Development Community Committee at this meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 10 April 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 10 April 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 10 April 2024

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 10 APRIL 2024

COMMENCING AT 8.02AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr T Mileto (Chairperson), Cr T Greenhalgh (Teams), Cr F Kinghorne, Mr Michael Banks, Mr Robert Alford, Ms Amy Gormly, Mrs Michelle Smith (Teams), Mr Tony Healey (8.14am), Mr Russell Tym, Mr Timothy Hall, Ms Julia Andrews, Manager Economic Development, Business Project Officer

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Cr F Kinghorne/Mr T Hall

That the apologies be accepted from Cr J Evans, Mr Darryl Curran, Mr Grant Gill and a late apology from Mr Garry Norton for the Economic Development Community Committee meeting on 10 April 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Cr F Kinghorne/Mr M Banks

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development Community Committee held on 21 February 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Economic Development Community Committee meeting held on 21 February 2024.

MINUTES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**10 APRIL 2024****3 PRESENTATIONS****3.1 INTRODUCTION OF NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, CHRIS RAWLINS**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/562

The new Economic Development Manager was introduced and gave a background for the Committee. He has previously worked for Regional Investment Corporation in Orange as well as Live Better.

Chris is currently four weeks into the role and has been working on a grant application for Destination NSW Incubator funding and Streets as Shared Spaces funding.

The draft of the Economic Development Strategy is due next week.

The Chair raised the matter that Council needs to be vigilant about the appropriateness of stalls and events at family days/events.

3.2 SPENDMAPP DATA UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/564

The most recent data from Spendmapp was presented to the Committee. The Committee requested that a copy of the data be circulated to the Committee following the meeting.

A number of Committee members made enquiries about occupancy levels in short stay accommodation. The Committee requested that Orange 360 and BnB Made Easy representatives be invited to the next meeting to discuss their experience with current occupancy levels.

4 GENERAL REPORTS**4.1 FOOD AND WINE BICYCLE TRAIL FEASIBILITY BUSINESS CASE**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/563

RECOMMENDATION**Cr F Kinghorne/Mr T Healey**

That the report on the Orange Region Food and Wine Trail Business Case is noted.

4.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/565

RECOMMENDATION**Mr M Banks/Mr T Hall**

That the Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be updated.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.14AM.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

3 PRESENTATIONS**3.1 NED SWEETAPPLE - ORANGE 360 - CURRENT VISITOR MARKET TRENDS**

Ned has been invited to update the Committee on current visitor trends in the Orange region.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

4 GENERAL REPORTS**4.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - CIRCULATION FOR COMMENT**

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1082

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Business Projects Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff have reported on the progress of the new Economic Development Strategy at various times over the past 12 months. Most of these have been verbal updates. A draft "Strategy on a Page" and the summary of the engagement process is attached for the Committee's review and comment.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee provide feedback on the draft Economic Development Strategy on a Page document by 9 July 2024.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council engaged SGS Economics to undertake local consultation and deliver a new Economic Development Strategy for the region. The key components of the engagement report and the strategy document are included for the Committee's information.

The abridged engagement report outlines the purpose of the engagement, the approach undertaken and the key findings of the engagement. This allowed them to develop a "personality" profile of the Orange economy, both current and aspirational. This underpins the Economic Development Strategy.

The Economic Development Strategy Executive Summary (attached) is also referred to as a 'Strategy on a Page'. This document is a consolidation of the information gathered and analysed as well as strategies proposed to achieve the vision of being the leading inland economy in NSW and a recognised leader in community driven economic development. It should be noted that Council's Economic Development team do not consider this final and

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024****4.1 Economic Development Strategy - Circulation for Comment**

will be making final amendments to ensure the strategy is clear and actionable over the coming years.

A complete Strategy document will be finalised once the core elements of the Strategy on a Page are confirmed as final.

Staff are now seeking Committee feedback on their view of the contents in the plan, particularly the sections of “Strategic Pillars & Priorities” and the “Key Performance Indicators”. The feedback should be provided to staff by 9 July 2024.

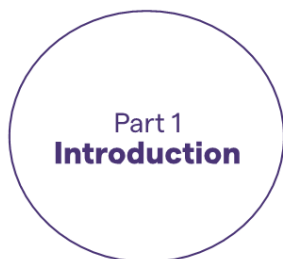
ATTACHMENTS

- 1 EDS Engagement Report - Abridged, D24/65382
- 2 ED Strategy on a Page, D24/66378

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

Attachment 1 EDS Engagement Report - Abridged



This report provides a summary of the engagement undertaken to support the development of the Orange Economic Development Strategy.

In partnership with SGS Economics and Planning, The Planning Studio designed and delivered a comprehensive engagement program to inform the preparation of the Orange Economic Development Strategy ('the Strategy').

Engagement Purpose

Engagement is more than just a 'tick in the box' exercise but instead is a fundamental part of the primary research and building capacity with Orange City council staff, the local business community and also the general community of Orange to participate in the strengthening of the Orange local economic and its future growth and development.

The engagement program aimed to:

- Collect qualitative data and evidence to inform the development of the Strategy;
- Gain a detailed understanding of the "on the ground" experience from a range of key stakeholders from government, not for profit, industry, business and the community;
- Listen the challenges and issues facing the area as well as the region;
- Develop localised solutions and place-based objectives and recommendations that will guide the future growth and development of the local Orange economy;
- Work with Council staff and local business/community partners in the development of the Strategy and ensure that recommendations are sustainable and implementable;
- Develop recommendations that are developed through a multiple of lens and that considers the range of influences and impacts.

Engagement Approach

By focusing on conversations with key stakeholders and asking the right questions, the engagement program formed a critical part of the primary research in gaining detailed information about the local context, influences and experiences.

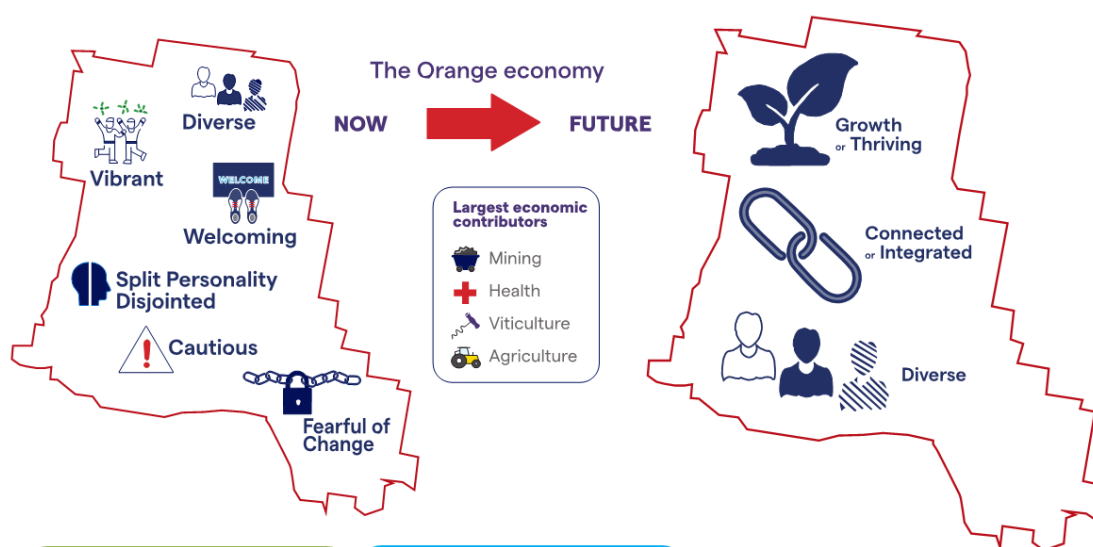
Our engagement approach understood the required partnership approaches that the eventual recommendations would likely require and as such aimed to build capacity through the process with various organisations, local council and NSW Government departments and agencies.

To inform the preparation of the economic development strategy, we engaged with approximately 90 stakeholders, community members and Council staff. The engagement program consisted of:

- + **1x2hr online stakeholder workshop (08) with invitees as advised by Council staff**
- + **3x 2hr in-person workshops with business (21); community members (32) and Council staff (17)**
- + **Online survey (33 responses, from 177 page visits)**



Key Themes + Findings



Strengths

Natural environment
Established mining + manufacturing
Renowned viticulture + agricultural producers
Strong volunteering culture
Health + Education infrastructure

Weaknesses

Affordability
Community + visitor diversity
High street activation
Transport to and from Orange
Cultural and retail offer
Access to services + local infrastructure
Effective governance

Opportunities

Health + education
Local and artisan makers and producers
Sporting precinct
Mining + manufacturing
The tourist experience
Local Retail offer

Threats

Housing affordability, availability + supply
Climate change
Retention of existing + Attraction of new small businesses
Mining (*reliance + activity itself*)

The role our community expects us to fulfill:



NSW Government:
Policy Direction & Leadership



Orange City Council:
Promoting local character & key economic assets

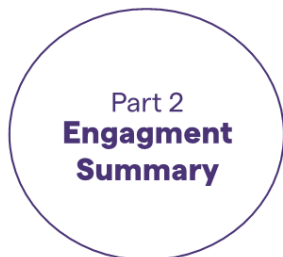


Major industries & employers:
Providing local employment opportunities & direct services



Local business and business groups:
Promoting local character & key economic assets





A key part of the engagement and primary research was to gain an understanding of the current perceptions, strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities to build the economic development strategy from.

By undertaking the following activities, we were able to gain an understanding of the current environment and reveal the desired future conditions that the community, business and key stakeholders would see achieving the Orange brand of successful economic development.

2.1 Workshops

By focusing on conversations with key stakeholders and asking the right questions, the engagement program formed a critical part of the primary research in gaining detailed information about the local context, influences and experiences.

The 'Personality' of the Orange Economy: Now + Future

To understand the perceptions and experiences of workshop participants about the Orange Economy, we asked them to describe it using words that they may ordinarily describe a human.

By asking this, we aim to challenge how participants think about the economy. Rather than providing a description, participants provide traits, both positive and negative.

Discussions with participants across the three workshops illustrated some consistent themes about the current 'personality' of the Orange local economy as well as the desired future 'personality'.

The current 'personality'

The Orange local economy now was characterised by participants as being '**Vibrant**', '**Diverse**' and '**Welcoming**' or alternative words that are similar in nature.

Interestingly some participants talked about the economy as being '**Bipolar**', having a '**split personality**' and being '**two-speed**'.

There was a strong consistent theme from participants that underlined a challenge for the Strategy which talks to the economy as being '**disjointed**', '**fragmented**' and '**separated**' (both the community and the economy).

Business and community participants also talked to the '**cautious**' and '**conservative**' nature of the current local economy of Orange. One participant characterised it as being '**fearful of change**', while another felt that it '**moved slowly**'. Table 1 provides a record of all responses across the three workshops.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

Attachment 1 EDS Engagement Report - Abridged

The desired future 'personality'

Only business and community participants were asked to characterise the desired future personality as the workshop with council staff discussed this via a different activity.

The desired future 'personality' of the Orange local economy was characterised by business and community participants as being **'Connected' or 'Integrated', 'Diverse' and 'Growing' or 'Thriving'**. However for some participants the growth of the economy needs to be balanced, maintain current values and that it bring everyone along.

Given that there was a feeling that the economy is currently 'disjointed', 'fragmented' and 'separated' (both the community and the economy), this desire to be more connected is understandable.

Business participants also talked about the local economy in the future being 'sustainable', 'resilient' and 'malleable'. Business also described an economy that is 'innovative', 'progressive', 'confident' and 'open minded'.

While community expressed a desire for it to also be 'fair', 'equitable', 'inclusive', and about 'sharing' so 'everyone is on the journey'. Sustainability and protection of natural assets was also desired by community participants.

“Our economic development should be as diverse and varied as the Orange population and its must take all people on the ride and be equitable”.

- Community Workshop Participant

Consolidating our existing assets [Activity 1]

In the 'Three Horizons of Growth (adapted from McKinsey and company), consolidation is where an economy protects and builds existing core business and functions. The following is a summary of responses from participants from across all three workshops.

Participants identified the **current industries, major operators, key employers that underpin the existing economy** as being:

- + Medical and Health (incl. aged care, disability and social services)
- + Education (3x TAFE, 4x Universities, 7x high schools)
- + NSW and Federal Govt Departments (ie. DPI, Centrelink, Medicare, Regional Investment Group, Service NSW etc)
- + Tourism and visitor economy (including accommodation, food and wine, sport)
- + Agriculture (including orchards and viticulture)
- + Not for Profit ["lots of volunteers"]
- + Culture and the Arts (ie. Conservatorium)
- + Retail (i.e. Bunnings, Kmart, Woolworths, Coles)
- + Hospitality
- + Construction and building trades
- + Small business management services
- + Mining – direct and indirect employment - and mining support industries
- + Manufacturing

Major Employers and Operators identified included:

- + Cadia (Newcrest)
- + Regis Mining
- + Charles Sturt University

Participants were asked to identify the **existing assets that we can consolidate** grouped under a series of themes. The assets identified by the community, business and Council staff are in table3 (page10-11)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

Attachment 2 ED Strategy on a Page

The Vision for Orange's economic future is to be NSW's leading inland economy and a recognised leader in community driven economic development.

Challenges	The City of Orange is a City with high population and low land area, and critically relies on regional cooperation and fluid movement of people, goods, skills and services across neighbouring regions.	Orange's existing diverse economy is a strength that needs to be protected and enhanced to embed resilience to the economic and climatic cycle.	There is a risk of entrenching a two-speed economy that concentrates economic benefits with a portion of the community.
Objectives	To lead and support regional collaboration. 	To develop depth and strength in existing core sectors. 	To be the enabler of community-led business growth 
Strategic Pillars & Priorities	<p>Collaborate to address shared challenges in housing, water security and waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a shared approach to regional economy monitoring and evaluation Improve public and private transport linkage within the region and between major centres Examine pressures on regional housing supply <p>Drive regional cooperation across core industry clusters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand regional approaches to economic development Jointly develop a coordinated regional centres hierarchy with neighbouring Councils Foster collaboration with potential regional competitor areas (such as Bathurst, Mudgee, Dubbo) 	<p>Enhance regional supply chains to encourage additional circularity and economic collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote closer ties between anchor industries and local business. Work with local business to encourage greater b2b connection. Promote the capability of local business. Strengthen local manufacturing supply chains Align education and training with local skills gaps and explore potential for regional training leadership. Increase upcycling/recycling within the local construction industry and identified core sectors such as health and education <p>Attract new enterprises that value add existing supply chains and diversify offering within our priority industries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support expansion in key anchor industries: Health and social support; Education; Resources and renewables; Ag-innovation and value-add Encourage import replacement to grow local supply chains. Facilitate the commercialisation of research in health, education and agriculture institutions. Focus on delivering the long-term vision outlined in the Orange Health and Innovation Precinct Master Plan <p>Supercharge tourism and events, creating a vibrant city to visit and live-in.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the night-time economy Attract new major events to Orange Target new tourism sub-sectors to diversify the industry (e.g. Active recreation tourism). Develop program of events targeted as locals. Maintain tourist accommodation as a hub for regional tourism. 	<p>Promote local business growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve conditions for new business formation. Promote regional co-operative and mutual business models. Improve conditions to expand home grown small business. Encourage a diverse business mix in the city centre. <p>Build long term community relationships to include community voices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve community-council relations. Include minority voices in strategic planning processes. Ensure economic development actions result in a wide spread of benefits
Key Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public transport usership and frequency of network Attainment of Active Travel Plan goal of 15% mode share for walking and cycling Maintain Orange job self containment around existing level of 76.3 per cent and retain proportion of jobs flow from neighbouring areas (10.7% Cabonne LGA and 4.4% Blayney LGA) Maintain a regional rental availability rate of 3% Retain or improve sub-index dimension scores in the Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index to at minimum meet Rest of NSW in Housing (7.42) and Health (4.47) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase GRP of core sectors (health and education) in line with sector employment forecasts – Health Care and Social Assistance GRP growth of 10% and Education and Training GRP growth of 5% to 2031) Ensure escape expenditure from residents is less than 40% Grow overnight visitors to 41% of total visitor numbers (aligned with Hunter Destination Management Plan 2022) Retain or improve sub-index dimension scores in the Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index to at minimum meet Rest of NSW in Economy (155), Income and Wealth (4.2), Employment, Knowledge and Skills (4.65) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase community participation in engagement to 5% for strategic planning (increase from 2.9% participation in engagement for 2022 CSP) Increase regional membership of Business Orange Maintain a city-centre commercial vacancy rate below 10% Improve Orange industry diversity (entropy) score to 2.8 (would position Orange highest in the areas canvassed in analysis) Retain or improve sub-index dimension scores in the Cities and Regions Wellbeing Index to at minimum meet Rest of NSW in Equality, Community and Work-life Balance (5.41)

5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

4.2 THINK ORANGE REGION CARD

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1103

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Business Projects Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orange City Council has been financially supporting the Think Orange Region Gift Card since October 2016. The purpose of this report is to elicit the Committee's view on whether this program should be continued or not.

Council is recommending that the current Think Orange program be allowed to lapse when the current stock of cards runs out. This is due to some concerns with the value of the card program, primarily being:

- the high rate of non-redemption
- that Council is underwriting the costs of private companies in their gift program(s)
- that Council staff are used in answering enquiries about the program when they are not resourced to do this.
- That a relatively small number of businesses are the major beneficiaries of the program, particularly large grocery retailers who account for 35% of redemptions
- That the "Think Orange Region" brand is not being actively managed and will be under review in the next 6 months
- that the program's renewal, membership and maintenance is unfunded in Council budget

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no identified budget for this program. Budget would need to be found within existing programs. That will restrict Councils ability to provide other assistance through the economic development portfolio.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee make a recommendation to Council on the future of the Think Orange Region card with the following recommendation(s):

1. The Orange City Council does not renew or continue to underwrite the Think Orange gift card.
2. That Business Orange are approached to gauge their interest in operating the card, and if there is no interest the program is allowed to lapse.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

4.2 Think Orange Region Card

3 JULY 2024

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation of this report has been assessed against Council’s other key risk categories and the following comments are provided:

Service/Project Delivery	The program draws on staff resources to activate EFTPOS machines in participating stores as well as enquiries from people who have received a card.	
Financial	Renewing the program has not been budgeted for in FY25, with costs estimated to be between \$10k-\$20k for membership and card printing (depending on quantities required). This would need to be taken from the existing economic development budget.	
Reputation/Political	Council will need to manage any withdrawal from the program very carefully to minimise reputational damage. This would include an information campaign to explain the reasons for withdrawing.	

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

The Think Orange Region Gift Card is facilitated through Why Leave Town Promotions who are based in Narrabri. When the program was initially launched the (then) Orange Business Chamber were invited to participate in the delivery of the program but declined. There were differing views on the value of the program.

The Think Orange Region Card is an EFTPOS based gift card which can be used to purchase goods and services in any participating local store. When a customer purchases a card they decide how much money to load onto the card and this money can then be used by the card holder to purchase goods they desire. The cards cannot be redeemed outside of the participating store network.

Each card costs Council over \$4 to provide. A value of \$1 to \$1000 can be loaded on to each card, which is done via EFTPOS in a participating Load Up store or the head office in Narrabri. The cards are then redeemed for goods or services at any of the participating businesses via EFTPOS transactions. It basically works like a store gift card.

The Think Orange Region Gift Card was originally launched in October 2016 under the banner of Shop Orange. The branding transitioned to Think Orange Region in March 2021. The “Think Orange Region” brand was developed by the previous Economic Development Manager and is not currently being managed with no long-term plans for growing this brand. It is likely that the Think Orange Region brand will be reviewed and decommissioned in coming months.

The program has cost \$60,815 (exclusive of staff costs) to run since inception, with annual ongoing membership costs \$1975. In addition, cards cost between \$2.85 and \$3.60 per card issued, depending on the lead time for card printing and whether they are bulk loaded or sold with a display hanger. Urgent print cards are in excess of \$4 per card. The table below shows the annual membership and card printing costs:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

4.2 Think Orange Region Card

Year	Cost
2016	\$5,715
2017	\$1,975
2018	\$7,820
2019	\$4,828
2020	\$12,070
2021*	\$28,407
2022	\$0
2023	\$0
2024	\$0
Total	\$60,815

* 3 years on annual membership paid in 2021 – expires November 2024

The \$0 cost in recent years is due to cards being purchased in bulk in 2021, along with 3 years membership. There are very limited numbers of printed cards left in Narrabri and none left in Orange. Council needs to resolve to wind the program down or print further cards.

Activity

Since the inception of the program there has been \$1,670,637 loaded onto the cards with the peak month being December 2022 with a value of \$457,625 being loaded in that month. Over the period that the program has been running there has been \$1,203,324.31 redeemed.

Advice from WLT is that the Total Unredeemed Funds may not always equal Total Load Value minus Total Redemption Value as some transactions take place manually via the WLT back-office system and so are not included in topline figures. These transactions are varied in nature and hence why they are not automatically included. However, Total Unredeemed Funds shows exactly what funds are remaining on cards and so is the most accurate measure of funds still available to be spent within the program. According to WLT there is an unredeemed amount of \$395,281 still in the community. This is 23.8% of the value of issued cards have not been redeemed, or just under one quarter.

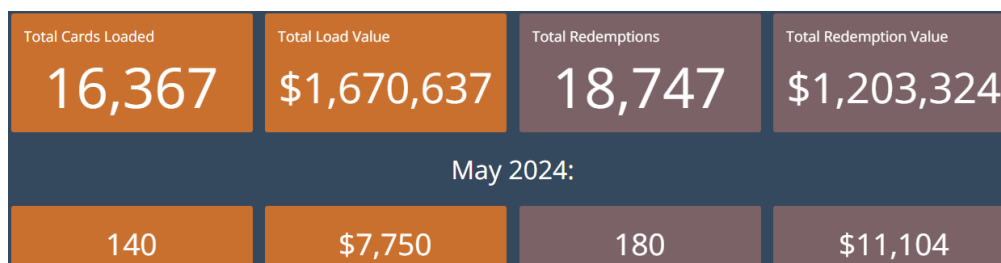
Of all the 16,367 cards loaded (that show on the system) the majority (15,330 or 93.7%) have been loaded in the head office at Narrabri, indicating that the vast majority of purchases of the card are not everyday residents but corporate organisations giving the cards to their staff, Orange City Council included. Council uses these cards as part of its staff internal Reward and Recognition program which has also driven usage. If the program ceases, Council would move to another gift card provider which would still promote spending in the local economy, however with a broader range of business.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

4.2 Think Orange Region Card

Figure 1 - Dashboard



(Table 1) Cards Loaded

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jan		2	0	2	31	11	34	104	12
Feb		0	4	32	8	76	135	53	25
Mar		11	25	14	30	6	16	143	151
Apr		0	19	5	1	103	192	133	40
May		3	8	12	1	1	159	97	140
Jun		0	30	1	233	48	118	125	
Jul		0	26	1	1015	24	52	103	
Aug		1	36	13	1148	91	211	22	
Sep		0	8	0	830	1551	56	165	
Oct	5	2	41	3	278	726	7	102	
Nov	22	40	66	36	351	423	297	148	
Dec	75	49	65	81	572	1815	3130	286	
Total	102	108	328	200	4498	4875	4407	1481	368

Table 1 indicates relatively low numbers of cards purchased since 2016 with three notable exceptions. The first of these is May 2020 to December 2020 which was the height of COVID shutdowns and restrictions when there was significant fear of business failure, leading to large companies purchasing the cards to support local businesses. The second was August 2021 to December 2021, also a peak pandemic period. The third was December 2022, where corporates appear to be purchasing cards for Christmas gifting, primarily from Newcrest.

The value of the purchases remained relatively even across the period at approximately \$100 per card (equivalent). It is known that the bulk of the purchases in this period were from just a few businesses. The exact average is \$102.07.

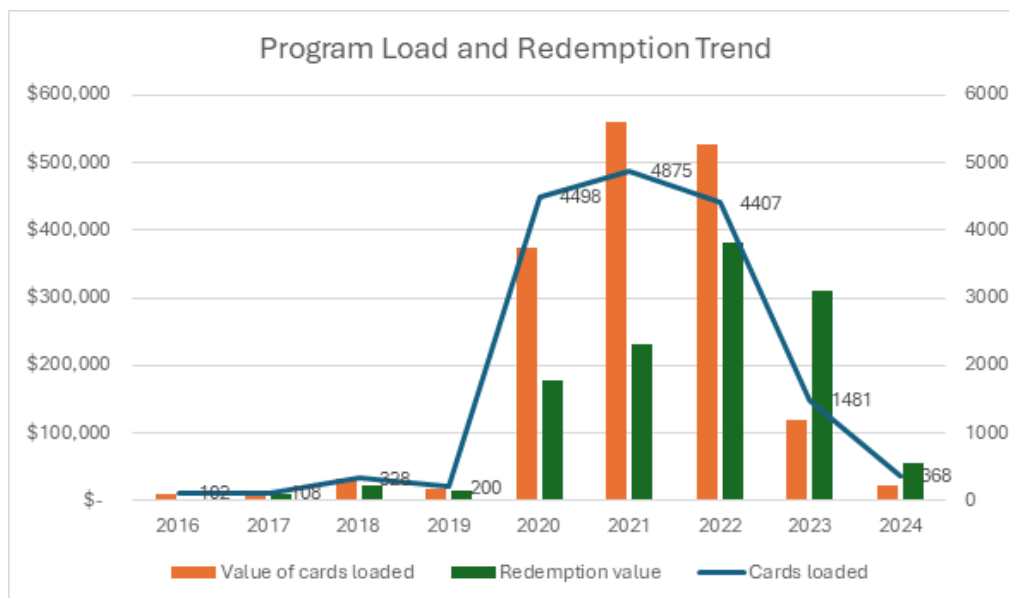
It is important to note that a card can be redeemed more than once. Hence the number of redemptions (18,747) is greater than the number of cards loaded (16,367). The average value of redemptions so far is \$64.19.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

4.2 Think Orange Region Card

Figure 2 – Program Overview



The annual retail and services sector in Orange is \$1.453B. This equates to 8 years of operation of the program combined being the equivalent to 0.08% of one years retail activity.

Business Feedback

A short phone survey was held with 4 of the top non-grocery/non-liquor stores to gauge the business views of the impact of the card on their business. The businesses were asked the following questions:

- Q1 - Has the Think Orange Region card (and previously the Shop Orange card) had a significant impact on your business?
- Q2 - Have you had any trouble in redeeming the cards?
- Q3 - Would it have a significant adverse impact on your business if the program support ceased?

The results from the survey are in Table 5.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

4.2 Think Orange Region Card

Table 5 – Results of the telephone survey

Q	Response
	Business 1
1	Get at least one card each weekend
2	They haven't had any trouble redeeming
3	It probably would. People come in with cards and then spend additional money in the store.
	Business 2
1	Not a significant effect on business but quite a few come through the store
2	Only one issue but customer was trying to do it manually from WA.
3	A bit of an effect. People use their gift card then spend extra
	Business 3
1	Yes. Get quite a few through, especially around Christmas
2	No
3	Apart from Christmas the trade isn't significant
	Business 4
1	Have had a lot of people use them
2	No
3	There would probably be an effect.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

4.3 SPENDMAPP DATA UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/931

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Business Projects Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On occasion the Committee has received reports on Spendmapp data. This information is provided by Geografia and is useful for monitoring the local economy in comparison to previous years. The latest monthly report from Spendmapp by Geografia is attached. The report includes commentary on the results.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledge the report on the Spendmapp Data Update for the month of May.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

1 2025 May Monthly Spendmapp Report, D24/65161



Spendmapp Monthly Report

Spendmapp cleans and analyses bank transaction data by time, geography, Expenditure Category and Type allowing continuous monitoring and analysis of local economic activity.

For the period of 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024:

- Resident Local Spend was \$341.2M. This is a 0.94% increase from the same period last year.
- Visitor Local Spend was \$243.76M. This is a 0.63% increase from the same period last year.
- Total Local Spend was \$580.2M. This is a 0.81% increase from the same period last year.
- Resident Escape Spend was \$125.5M. This is a 4.4% increase from the same period last year.
- Resident Online Spend was \$193.1. This is a 1.27% increase from the same period last year.

The 4.4 % increase in Resident Escape Spend and the 1.27% increase in Online Spend means local goods and service providers are losing market share to non-local businesses.

For the month of May 2024:

- Resident Local Spend was \$70.8M. This is a 1.07% increase from the same time last year.
- Visitor Local Spend was \$50.6M. This is a -0.57% decrease from the same time last year.
- Total Local Spend was \$121.5M. This is a 0.38% increase from the same time last year.
- Resident Escape Spend was \$24.0M. This is a 5.3% increase from the same time last year.
- Resident Online Spend was \$39.4M. This is a -0.66% decrease from the same time last year.

The 5.3 % increase in Resident Escape Spend means local goods and service providers are losing market share to non-local businesses.

Expenditure by Expenditure Type

These expenditure charts show the long-term pattern of expenditure activity by Expenditure Type across the Orange City Council LGA. Typically, we see spending spikes at Easter and Christmas; dips in the post-Christmas period; and a steady climb through winter.

By way of a benchmark, the mean ratio of Resident Online Spend to all resident spending is 0.22. That is, for every dollar spent by resident cardholders anywhere, 22c goes online. Another 34c is in Escape Expenditure and the rest is spent locally.

Over the last few years across most of Australia, total expenditure has been relatively flat, even in fast growing municipalities. The exception to this has often been in Resident Online Spend, which continues to grow relative to Total Local Spend.





Total Local Spend

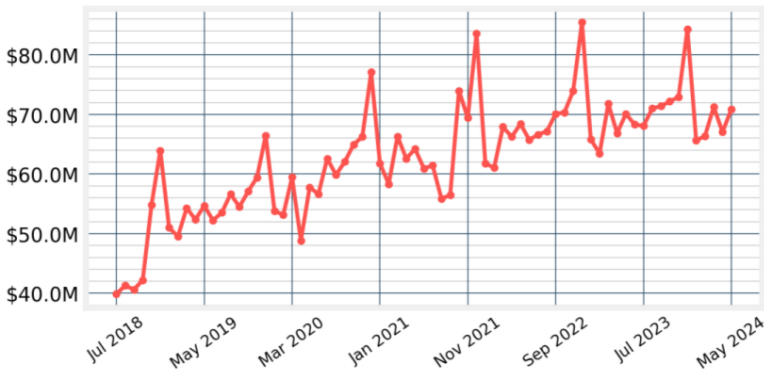
The total amount spent with merchants within the Orange City Council LGA.



Over the last 71 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Total Local Spend has been upwards.

Resident Local Spend

The amount spent by residents and local businesses with merchants inside the Orange City Council LGA.



Over the last 71 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Local Spend has been upwards.





Visitor Local Spend

The amount spent by non-residents and non-local businesses with merchants inside the Orange City Council LGA.



Over the last 71 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Visitor Local Spend has been upwards.

Resident Escape Spend

The amount spent by residents and local businesses outside the Orange City Council LGA.



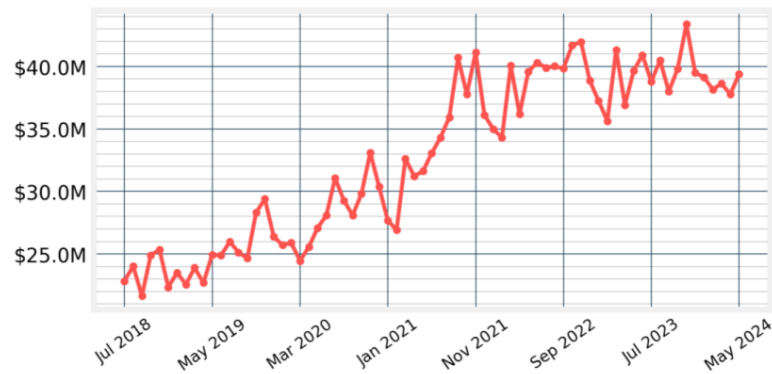
Over the last 71 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Escape Spend has been upwards.





Resident Online Spend

The amount spent by Orange City Council LGA residents and local businesses with online merchants.



Over the last 71 months, the spending trend (as shown by the trendline in the Spendmapp app) for Resident Online Spend has been upwards.

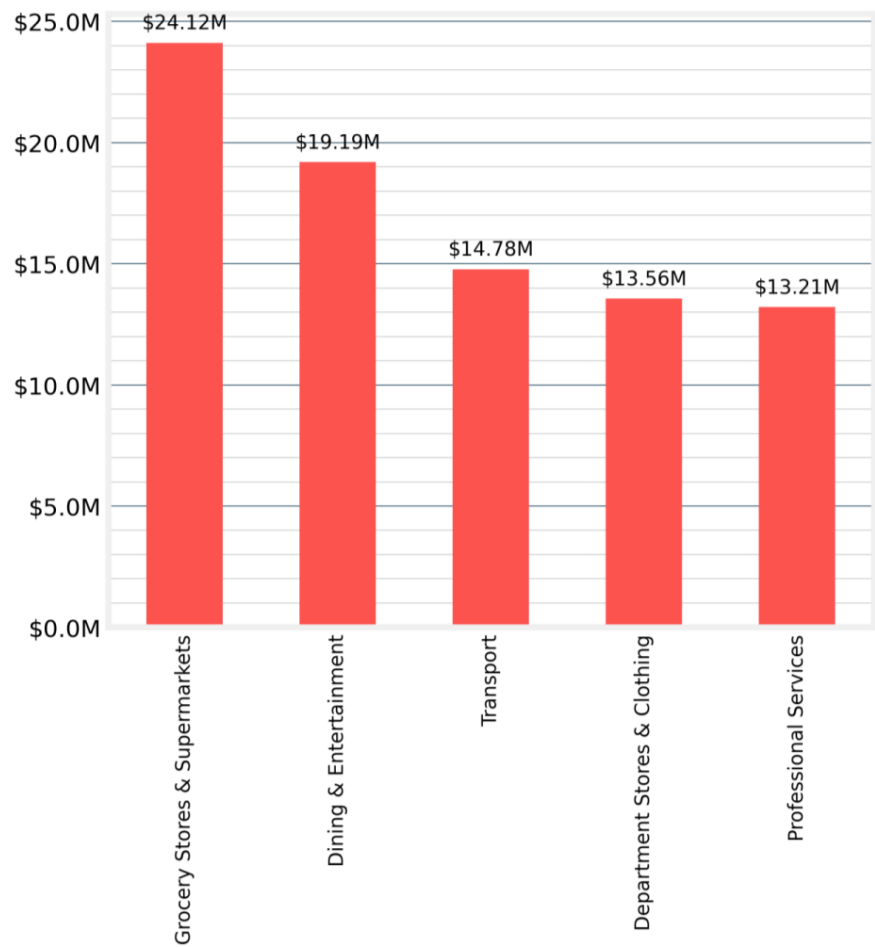




Expenditure by Expenditure Category

The Top 5 Spending Categories for May 2024

Total Local Spend split by the top 5Expenditure Categories.

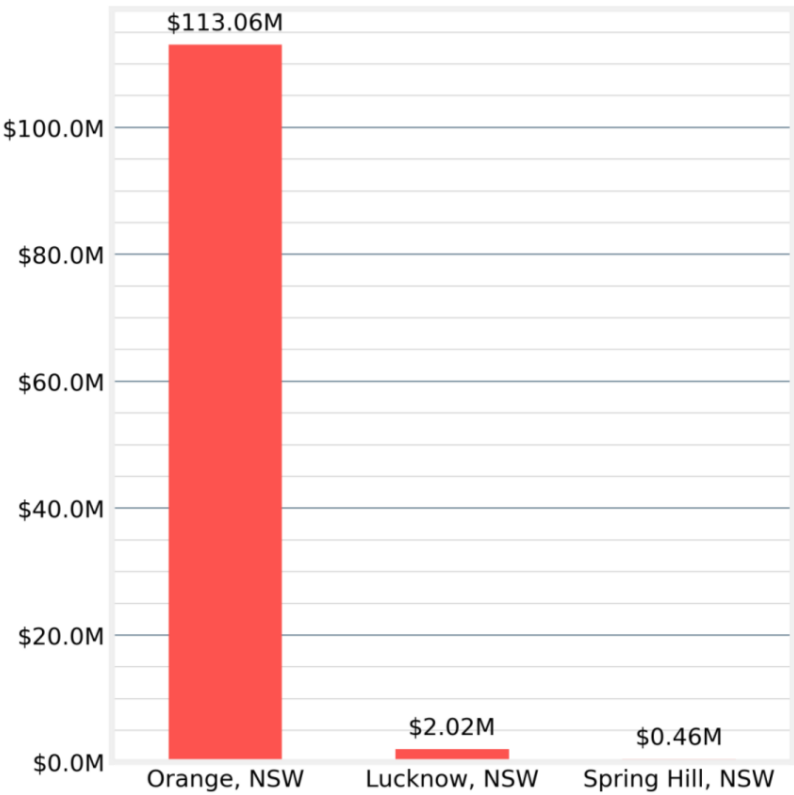




Spend by Origin and Destination

The Top 3 Suburbs by Total Local Spend for May 2024

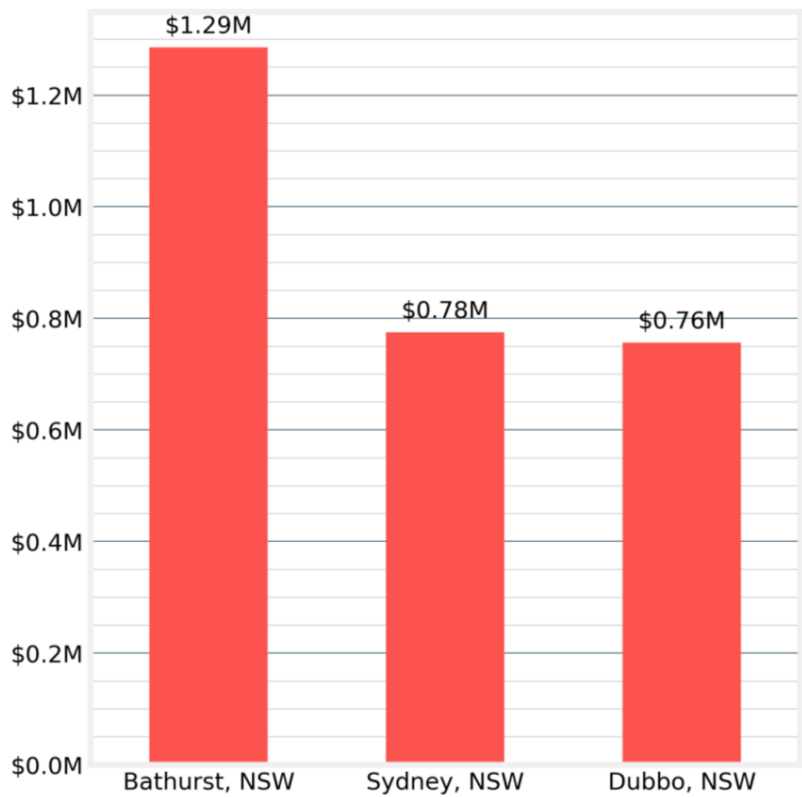
Total Local Spend by Suburbs of destination (i.e. where the spending occurs)





The Top 3 Suburbs by Resident Escape Spend for May 2024

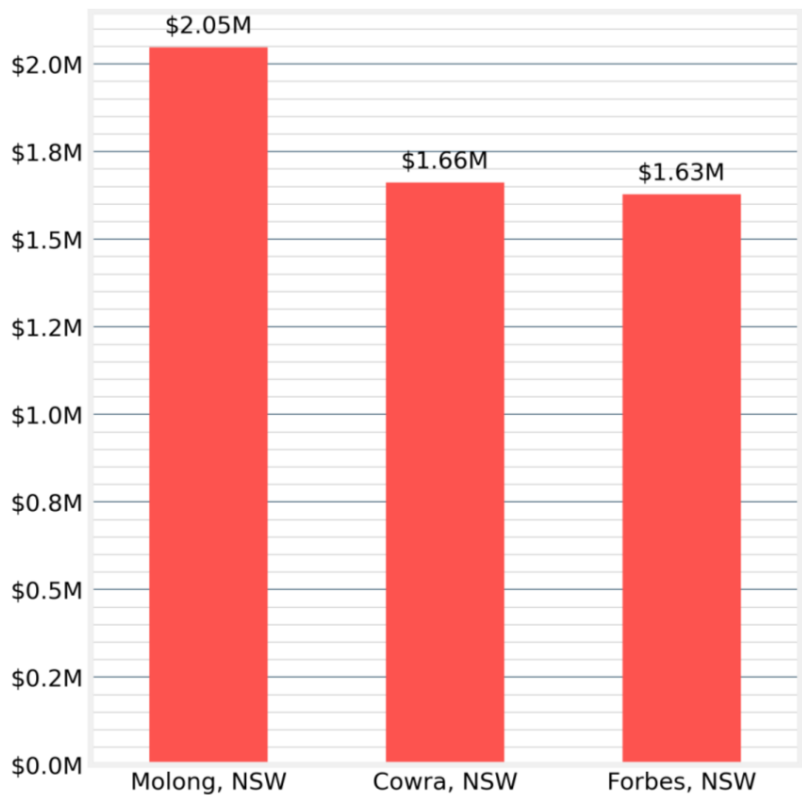
Resident Escape Spend by destination Suburbs (i.e. where the spending goes to).





The Top 3 Suburbs by Visitor Local Spend for May 2024

Visitor Local Spend by Suburbs of origin (i.e. where the visitors originate).





Night Time Economy

Night Time Economy for May 2024

The biggest spending night of the month of May 2024 was Saturday 25 May with Total Local Spend of \$0.7M. This was made up of \$0.4M in Dining and Entertainment spending and \$0.3M spending in all other categories.



Disclaimer
This document has been prepared by Geografia Pty Ltd for Orange City Council and is intended for its use only. Any use of material from the report should be appropriately cited (i.e. source:Spendmapp by Geografia). While every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information, Geografia does not warrant or represent that the information contained is free from errors or omissions and accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, cost or expense (whether direct or indirect) incurred as a result of a person taking action in respect to any representation, statement, or advice referred to in this report.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**3 JULY 2024**

4.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1105

AUTHOR: Tony Boland, Business Projects Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council introduced Action Plans for many of the Community Committees to record requests to the Chief Executive Officer for staff to undertake actions on behalf of the Committee. When the Committee resolves to request an action be added, the CEO considers the request and if approved, the request is added to the Action Plan. The actions can be varied and include a request for a report, documents or information be circulated or some matter be researched, and the outcomes fed back to the Committee.

The attachment is the format of the Action Plan and will be updated after every Committee meeting.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “13.1. Attract and grow strategic investment”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan be updated.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

1 EDCC Action Plan, D22/55068

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

3 JULY 2024

Attachment 1 EDCC Action Plan

D18/18634

Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan

Date	Action	Who	Budget status	Start	End	Update/Completed	Completed
10/8/22	The c'tee has highlighted affordable housing and housing availability as issues to monitor.	Business Projects Officer	N/A	10/8/22	Ongoing	A link to the Housing Strategy was emailed to the Committee on 1/5/24. While not a direct action the c'tee has highlighted its interest including how it links into the Subregional Rural and Industrial Lands Strategy 2019 to 2036. Mr Tim Hall mentioned an article and asked that it be distributed to the C'tee. Article was forwarded to the C'tee 15 November 2023.	
14/9/22	Include water and housing updates in periodic data updates.	Business Projects Officer	N/A	14/9/22	13/9/23	The housing data will be included in the statistical snapshot. Direct link to water on Council's website previously supplied. See item for 22/2/23.	15/11/23
14/9/22	Keep power supply issues in mind for future development and opportunities	Committee	N/A	14/9/22	Ongoing		
14/12/22	Support the Orange Rail Action Group in its bid to improve rail services into Orange	Committee	N/A	14/12/22	Ongoing	Meeting held with the new Minister for Transport and the local Member. The signs are promising.	
22/2/23	Produce a revised version to the Joint Organisation Placemat more specific to Orange	Business Projects Officer	N/A	22/2/23	Ongoing	Finalising the data and in discussion with the graphic designer regarding format, data updates and layout.	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 EDCC Action Plan

3 JULY 2024

D18/18634

Economic Development Community Committee Action Plan

Date	Action	Who	Budget status	Start	End	Update/Completed	Completed
9/8/23	Reg Kidd (via text) requested a follow up on social/affordable housing report	Business Projects Officer	N/A	9/8/23		A link to the Housing report was forwarded to the Committee on 1/5/24	1/5/24
9/8/23	Invite Joint Organisation CEO to update the Committee to talk about the JO efforts around power.	Business Projects Officer	N/A	9/8/23			13/9/23
21/2/24	Keep the recruitment of planners and building surveyors at front of mind.	Committee				C'tee would like CEO or Director to give advice on what Council is doing. What is it going to cost to get a planner or certifier?	

2.2 MINUTES OF THE SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 11 JULY 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1253

AUTHOR: Allan Reeder, Communications Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sister Cities Community Committee met on 11 July 2024. The Minutes of the committee are provided for the information and consideration of Council.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “4.1. A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Sister Cities Community Committee at its meeting held on 11 July 2024.**
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.2.2 from the minutes of the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting of 11 July 2024.**
 - 3.2.2**
 - 2. *That, following the success of the recent exchange visit by staff from Timaru District Council, Council be requested to consider allocating funding for a return visit in the 2025/26 budget.***
 - 3. *That planning for a return visit include consideration of opening up the visit to the wider Orange community.***
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Sister Cities Community Committee from its meeting held on 11 July 2024 be adopted.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Under the umbrella of Council’s Sister Cities program two staff members from Timaru District Council spent a week visiting Orange City Council in early October 2023.

Nicole Timney (Manager of Property Services and Client Representative) and Suzy Ratahi (Land Transport Manager) made a number of presentations to ELT and around 70 staff about their work in Timaru.

There were tours of Council facilities and places of interest. Staff were interested to learn about the key differences in the ways the two similarly-sized Councils go about their work in very different ways. Differences in the way the two Councils deal with assets management and contract management were two of many topics to prompt good discussions. The visit pointed to the value of a return visit by Orange staff being considered at some point in the future.

If successful, Recommendation 2 would provide funding for this visit. The Committee also wishes to float the suggestion of the staff exchange-visit happening alongside an opportunity for Orange residents to visit Timaru. The proposed visit by community members would be self-funded.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 SCCC 11 July 2024 Minutes
- 2 SCCC 11 July 2024 Agenda, D24/74769 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 11 JULY 2024

COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr J Hamling (Acting Chairperson) (Mayor), Mr Chris Gryllis, Mr Graham Bloore, Mr Douglas Brooks, Communications Lead (Reeder)

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mr C Gryllis/Mr D Brooks

That the apologies be accepted from Cr Kevin Duffy for the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting on 11 July 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr C Gryllis/Mr G Bloore

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sister Cities Community Committee held on 27 July 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting held on 27 July 2023.

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 UPDATE ON USHIKU

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1085

The meeting heard that annual Ushiku Cup Japanese Speech Contest was held Thursday 30 November 2023 attracting good number of participants. The next event is planned for November 2024.

Restoration work has been completed on 'The Statue of Empathy', a gift of the city of Ushiku in 1994 which has stood at the entrance to the Civic Theatre. The restoration work was undertaken by a professional art conservation firm. The statue was reinstated on its stone plinth on 6 March this year. While the plinth includes an inscription telling the story of the statue in Japanese text, a metal plaque with English text is still to be re-instated. Staff will follow-up on the plaque with museum staff who've been handling this process. The statue is the work of renowned Japanese artist, Kunihiro Isshiki.

There will be a Mayoral welcome for the next student group of exchange students and staff from Ushiku Eishen High School at the Civic Centre. The event is scheduled for 6 August 2024.

There was discussion of a recent spike in Australian tourism visits to Japan due to favourable exchange rates.

RESOLVED

Cr J Hamling/Mr D Brooks

That the report be noted.

3.2 UPDATE ON TIMARU

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1086

The meeting heard that two staff members from Timaru District Council spent a week visiting Orange City Council in early October 2023.

Nicole Timney (Manager of Property Services and Client Representative) and Suzy Ratahi (Land Transport Manager) made a number of presentations to staff about their work in Timaru. There were tours of Council facilities and places of interest. Staff were interested to learn about the key differences in the ways the two similarly-sized Councils go about their work in very different ways. Differences in the way the two Councils deal with assets management and contract management were two of many topics to prompt good discussions. There was discussion that the visit pointed to the value of a return visit being considered at some point in the future.

RESOLVED

Mr C Gryllis/Mr G Bloore

1. That the report be noted.
2. That following the success of the recent exchange visit by staff from Timaru District Council, Council be requested to consider allocating funding for a return visit in the 2025/26 budget.
3. That planning for a return visit include consideration of opening up the visit to the wider Orange community.

3.3 UPDATE ON MT HAGEN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1087

The meeting heard that Council had written to the High Commissioner for PNG following the earthquake in March to express our concern. The meeting heard that the Orange Rotary Club has also offered funds to PNG to support earthquake victims.

It was reported that, following a resolution of Council, the High Commissioner has also been invited to visit Orange at a convenient time, but that there'd been no response to date.

Against the backdrop of changes in global alliances, there was discussion about the importance of supporting ways of strengthening relations between Australia and PNG.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr G Bloore/Mr D Brooks

That the report be noted.

3.4 UPDATE ON ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1088

There was no recent activity to report on links with Orange California.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr G Bloore/Mr D Brooks

That the report be noted.

4 GENERAL REPORTS

4.1 REQUEST FOR NEW 'FRIENDSHIP CITY' IN UKRAINE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1091

In response to a report from the Sister City Community Committee, the 3 October 2023 meeting of Council adopted a motion: *'That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.'*

Since then it has become clear that the local new Ukrainian community in the Orange district has more connections with the region of Zaporizhzhia, than Dnipro.

During this investigation Council has made contact with a Ukrainian man who has been living in Australia and is now working as an engineer in WA. He has assisted with exploring links between his former hometown and an Australian city. He has offered voluntarily to assist this process of exploring links for Orange. Email and telephone contact continues.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr D Brooks/Mr C Gryllis

That a report on progress to date on the proposal to establish a Friendship City link with a city in Ukraine be provided to Council.

4.2 ACTION LIST

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/1093

The meeting discussed a recent visit by Cr Jeff Whitton to India and whether there was potential for closer links in future.

The Mayor told the meeting about a recent visit to Orange by the mayor of the Devadaha, Nepal. The meeting discussed the growing size of the Nepali community in Orange and asked for a follow-up letter to be sent to explore ongoing contact.

The Mayor noted it was the last meeting of the Sister Cities Community Committee for the current Council term, and thanked members for their enthusiasm and involvement.

RECOMMENDATION

Cr J Hamling/Mr C Gryllis

That the Action List for the Sister Cities Community Committee be updated with the following actions:

1. That staff follow-up on plans to re-install an English translation plaque on the recently restored 'State of Empathy' at the Byng St theatre entrance.
2. That following the success of the recent exchange visit by staff from Timaru District Council, Council be requested to consider allocating funding for a return visit in the 2025/26 budget.
3. That planning for a return visit include consideration of opening up the visit to the wider Orange community.
4. That a report on progress to date on the proposal to establish a Friendship City link with a city in Ukraine be provided to Council.
5. That staff make follow-up contact with Cr Whitton to see if his recent trip to India has any 'Sister City' implications.
6. That staff respond to the recent visit to Orange by the mayor of Devadaha, Nepal by writing a letter exploring closer links.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.42AM.



SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

11 JULY 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Thursday, 11 July 2024** commencing at **10:00 AM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Allan Reeder on 6393 8217.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

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SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**11 JULY 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chairperson), Cr J Hamling (Mayor), Mr Chris Gryllis, Mr Douglas Brooks, Director Corporate and Commercial Services, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager Communications & Engagement, Communications Lead

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Sister Cities Community Committee at this meeting.

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**11 JULY 2024**

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sister Cities Community Committee held on 27 July 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting held on 27 July 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Sister Cities Community Committee held on 27 July 2023

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE
SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE
ON 27 JULY 2023
COMMENCING AT 10:00 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr Kevin Duffy (Chairperson), Cr J Hamling (Mayor), Mr Chris Gryllis, Mr Douglas Brooks, Communications Lead (Mr Allan Reeder)

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

Accepted from

RESOLVED

Mr D Brooks/Mr C Gryllis

That the apologies be accepted from Mr Graham Bloore for the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting on 27 July 2023.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr D Brooks/Cr J Hamling

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sister Cities Community Committee held on 29 November 2022 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting held on 29 November 2022.

MINUTES OF SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**27 JULY 2023****3 PRESENTATIONS****3.1 UPDATE ON USHIKU**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1176

The meeting heard that an exchange visit to Orange High was held from 26 February to 13 March 2023, involving 20 students and 3 teachers from Ushiku Eishin High School. A civic reception was held in the Council chambers on Tuesday 28 February 2023.

A visit by students from Orange High School to Ushiku is planned for September this year. The meeting suggested that gifts be provided to the Orange High student groups to be presented to Ushiku City Council (See Action Plan).

A round of the annual Japanese Speaking Contest was held in the Orange Regional Gallery theatre on 1 December, 2022. Planning has begun for the next event later this year.

Ushiku City Council advised on 1 March that a planned trip to Orange by the Mayor in May would not go ahead.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr C Gryllis/Cr J Hamling**

That the report be noted.

3.2 UPDATE ON TIMARU, NEW ZEALAND

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1177

The meeting heard that in discussions with Timaru Council, the process of re-activating plans for a staff exchange later this year is happening. Timaru has nominated two Timaru staff members to visit Orange, as the first leg of a reciprocal visit. No dates have been set.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr D Brooks/Mr C Gryllis**

That the report be noted.

3.3 UPDATE ON MT HAGEN, PNG

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1178

The meeting heard that there had been no response to an email sent to the former contact at Mt Hagen District Council, Mr Wak Kewa, seeking advice on how to re-establish links. The meeting heard that there had been public disputes between two local authorities, the Mt Hagen District Council and the Mt Hagen City Development Board.

Mr Chris Gryllis reported that he had recently had contact with the PNG Deputy High Commissioner during a private visit to Orange. It was suggested that it was crucial for Australia to maintain close links with nations of the Pacific to counter the influence of other nations, and that the importance of person-to-person contact was significant in maintaining links. These links could be expressed by through sport and by seasonal workers from PNG coming to Australia. It was suggested that Council consider inviting the current PNG High Commissioner to visit Orange. (SEE ACTION LIST).

During general discussion, the chair reported to the meeting that he was planning to visit Tipperary Council in Ireland during a private visit in August. The links had begun while Cr Duffy was serving on Cabonne Shire Council. The meeting asked that Cr Duffy be provided with a letter of introduction from the Mayor and suitable gifts from Orange City Council to be presented to Tipperary County Council. (SEE ACTION LIST)

MINUTES OF SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

27 JULY 2023

RECOMMENDATION**Mr C Gryllis/Cr J Hamling**

That the report be noted.

3.4 UPDATE ON CITY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1179

The meeting heard in line with decision at the last meeting, an email of thanks had been sent to Mr Denis Bilodeau and City of Orange Council thanking them for their hospitality during a recent personal visit by Committee Member Mr Doug Brooks. The letter also asked for suggestion for re-invigorating the Sister City Relationship with Orange NSW. While there had been no response to date from Mr Bilodeau, a senior staff member from the City of Orange City Council had responded suggesting a Zoom conference to explore options. The meeting asked staff to respond to the request for a Zoom meeting to explore options for closer future links. (SEE ACTION LIST)

RECOMMENDATION**Mr D Brooks/Cr J Hamling**

That the report be noted.

4 GENERAL REPORTS**4.1 REQUEST FOR A NEW 'FRIENDSHIP CITY' IN UKRAINE**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1180

At the Council Meeting of 6 September 2022, Council resolved:

4.2 UKRAINIAN FRIENDSHIP CITY

TRIM REFERENCE: 2022/1696

RESOLVED - 22/361**Cr M McDonell/Cr T Mileto**

That Council refer back to the Sister Cities Committee to investigate and provide options for a Ukrainian city with which to establish a Friendship City relationship.

For: Cr J Hamling, Cr K Duffy, Cr J Evans, Cr G Floyd, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr T Mileto, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Whitton

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

The 29 November 2022 Sister Cities Community Committee meeting asked for a report be brought back to the next meeting on investigations to date.

The designation 'Friendship City' can be a preliminary step towards the formal agreement-based step of a Sister City. It can remain as a more informal arrangement which may be more appropriate in the current circumstances. Past experience in Orange has shown that the most Sister City activity happens when there is an active group of local residents promoting interest and connections with that Sister City.

The meeting heard that contact has been made with locally settled families to gauge their response and see if names of potential cities arise. A number of Ukrainian people who have settled locally come from the city of Dnipro (NEE-pro), a city of around 1 million residents. Independently of these inquiries, in June the Mayor has received an unsolicited letter from the Mayor of Melitopol City Council in the southern Zaporizhzhia region in southern Ukraine, a city

MINUTES OF SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

27 JULY 2023

of around 150,000 residents. The meeting felt there was value in exploring links with a city where there known connections (SEE ACTION LIST).

RECOMMENDATION

Cr J Hamling/Mr D Brooks

That staff continue efforts to explore options to establish a Friendship City with a community in Ukraine, with a focus of Dnipro, and produce a report to Council.

4.2 ACTION LIST - SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1181

RECOMMENDATION

That the Action List for the Sister Cities Community Committee be reviewed and updated with the following additions.

4.2.1 That Council consider inviting the High Commissioner of PNG to visit Orange to explore closer links with Mt Hagen and PNG generally.

4.2.1. That a letter of introduction from the mayor and suitable gifts be provided to Cr Duffy to present to the Mayor of Tipperary during a private visit in August.

4.2.3. That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.45 AM.

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**11 JULY 2024**

3 PRESENTATIONS**3.1 UPDATE ON USHIKU**

The annual Ushiku Cup Japanese Speech Contest was held Thursday 30 November attracting good number of participants.

The next event is planned for November this year.

Restoration work has been completed on 'The Statue of Empathy', a gift of the city of Ushiku in 1994 which has stood at the entrance to the Civic Theatre. The restoration work was undertaken by a professional art conservation firm. The statue was reinstated on its stone plinth on 6 March this year. While the plinth includes an inscription telling the story of the statue in Japanese text, a metal plaque with English text is still to be re-instated. The statue is the work of renowned Japanese artist, Kuniyoshi Isshiki.

There will be a Mayoral welcome for the next student group of exchange students and staff from Ushiku Eishen High School at the Civic Centre. The event is scheduled for 6 August 2024.

3.2 UPDATE ON TIMARU

Two staff members from Timaru District Council spent a week visiting Orange City Council in early October 2023.

Nicole Timney (Manager of Property Services and Client Representative) and Suzy Ratahi (Land Transport Manager) made a number of presentations to staff about their work in Timaru. There were tours of Council facilities and places of interest. Staff were interested to learn about the key differences in the ways the two similarly-sized Councils go about their work in very different ways. Differences in the way the two Councils deal with assets management and contract management were two of many topics to prompt good discussions.

The visit shows the value of a return visit being considered at some point in the future.

3.3 UPDATE ON MT HAGEN

Council wrote to the High Commissioner for PNG following the earthquake in March to express our concern. Following a resolution of Council, the High Commissioner has also been invited to visit Orange at a convenient time.

3.4 UPDATE ON ORANGE, CALIFORNIA

No specific updates are provided to the committee. Members are invited to open discussion.

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2024

4 GENERAL REPORTS**4.1 REQUEST FOR NEW 'FRIENDSHIP CITY' IN UKRAINE**

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1091

AUTHOR: Allan Reeder, Communications Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update to the Sister City Community Committee and Council on progress towards exploring the proposal for a 'Friendship City' with a city in Ukraine.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "4.2. Deliver cultural facilities and programs that reflect the interests of a culturally diverse community".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on Ukraine Friendship City progress to date be provided to Council.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In response to a report from the Sister City Community Committee, the 3 October 2023 meeting of Council adopted a motion: *'That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.'*

Since then it has become clear that the local new Ukrainian community in the Orange district has more connections with the city of Zaporizhzhia, than Dnipro.

During this investigation Council has made contact with a Ukrainian man who has been living in Australia and is now working as an engineer in WA. He has assisted with exploring links between his former hometown and an Australian city. He has offered voluntarily to assist this process of exploring links for Orange. Email contact continues.

4.2 ACTION LIST

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1093
AUTHOR: Allan Reeder, Communications Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Sister Cities Action List is an opportunity for committee members to add, review and update items for action as well as provide for a running status list of those actions of the committee.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “4.2. Deliver cultural facilities and programs that reflect the interests of a culturally diverse community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Action List for the Sister Cities Community Committee be reviewed and updated.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

This agenda item is an opportunity to add items to the Sister Cities Action List. The action list pts new items in a format to track the action, any resources implications as well as its start and completion date.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Sister Cities Community Committee Action Plan, D22/43469

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

11 JULY 2024

Attachment 1 Sister Cities Community Committee Action Plan

D22/43469

Sister Cities Community Committee

Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost implications	Resourcing implications	Start	End	Update/Completed
That Council write to the mayor of Ushiku, outlining recent flag-raising ceremony in Orange following the death of former PM Shinzo Abe.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	August 2022		Completed
That email contact be made with staff at each Sister City, offering to send the monthly OCC e-news.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	August 2022	August 2023	Completed
That staff make contact with Timaru Council to refresh plans for their staff visit.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	August 2022		Visit completed.
That staff attempt to establish a new staff contact with Mt Hagen District Council.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	August 2022		Completed. Not successful
That staff contact local sporting organisations to ascertain interest in touring teams to Timaru.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	February 2022		Not begun, pending date of return visit to Timaru.

SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**11 JULY 2024**

Attachment 1 Sister Cities Community Committee Action Plan

That staff write a letter of thanks to Mr Denis Bilodeau at City of Orange California, thanking him for his recent hospitality and seeking his advice on renewing the Sister City program.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	Nov 2022		Completed.
That Council be requested consider inviting the High Commissioner of PNG to visit Orange to explore closer links with Mt Hagen and PNG generally	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	July 2023		Completed.
That a letter of introduction from the mayor and suitable gifts be provided to Cr Duffy to present to the Mayor of Tipperary during a private visit in August 2023.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil	Nil	July 2023	August 2023	Completed.
That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.	Communications Lead	'4.1 A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs.'	Nil		Nov 2023		Begun. Continuing. Report presented.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 UKRAINIAN FRIENDSHIP CITY UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/1254

AUTHOR: Allan Reeder, Communications Lead

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting of 6 September 2022 Council resolved:

4.2 UKRAINIAN FRIENDSHIP CITY

TRIM REFERENCE: 2022/1696

RESOLVED - 22/361

Cr M McDonell/Cr T Mileto

That Council refer back to the Sister Cities Committee to investigate and provide options for a Ukrainian city with which to establish a Friendship City relationship.

For: Cr J Hamling, Cr K Duffy, Cr J Evans, Cr G Floyd, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr T Mileto, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Whitton

Against: Nil

Absent: Nil

Further, at the Employment and Economic Development Policy Committee of 3 October 2023, Council resolved:

2.1 MINUTES OF THE SISTER CITIES COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING 27 JULY 2023

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1522

RESOLVED - 23/439

Cr K Duffy/Cr G Floyd

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Sister Cities Community Committee at its meeting held on 27 July 2023.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 4.2.1 and 4.2.3 from the minutes of the Sister Cities Community Committee meeting of 27 July 2023.
 - 4.2.1.
That Council consider inviting the High Commissioner of PNG to visit Orange to explore closer links with Mt Hagen and PNG generally.
 - 4.2.3.
That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Sister Cities Community Committee from its meeting held on 27 July 2023 be adopted.

For: Cr K Duffy, Cr J Evans, Cr G Floyd, Cr T Greenhalgh, Cr F Kinghorne, Cr D Mallard, Cr M McDonell, Cr T Mileto, Cr S Peterson, Cr G Power, Cr J Whitton

Against: Nil

Absent: Cr J Hamling

This report provides an update to Council on recent progress on its resolution (23/439) to explore new links with a city in Ukraine. The step of establishing a Friendship City is seen as a preliminary step towards exploring more formal Sister City relationship.

3.1 Ukrainian Friendship City Update

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “4.1. A broad range of creative and cultural facilities, services and programs that meet community needs”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the report on the Ukrainian Friendship City proposal.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In response to a report from the Sister City Community Committee, the 3 October 2023 meeting of Council adopted a motion: *‘That staff continue to explore establishing Friendship City links with a city in Ukraine, with a particular focus on Dnipro, decline the approach from Melitopol and produce a report to Council.’*

Since then, it has become clear that the local new Ukrainian community in the Orange district has more connections with the region of Zaporizhzhia, rather than Dnipro.

During this investigation Council has made contact with a Ukrainian man who has been living in Australia and is now working as an engineer in WA. He has assisted with exploring Sister City links between his former hometown and an Australian city.

He has offered to voluntarily assist this process of exploring links for Orange with a suitably-sized city in the Zaporizhzhia region.

An introductory letter from the Mayor has been supplied to enable an approach to begin.