



City of Ipswich

**IPSWICH
CITY
COUNCIL**

AGENDA

of the

**ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

**Held in the Council Chambers
8th floor – 1 Nicholas Street
IPSWICH QLD 4305**

On Wednesday, 1 December 2021
At 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Community, Culture, Arts and Sport
Committee

MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic (**Chairperson**)
Councillor Jacob Madsen (**Deputy Chairperson**)

Mayor Teresa Harding
Councillor Kate Kunzelmann
Councillor Andrew Fechner

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
*10 minutes after the conclusion of the Community, Culture, Arts and
Sport Committee on **Wednesday, 1 December 2021***
Council Chambers

| Item No. | Item Title | Page No. |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | Declarations of Interest | |
| | Business Outstanding | |
| | Confirmation of Minutes | |
| 1 | Confirmation of Minutes of the Economic and Industry Development Committee No. 2021(10) of 4 November 2021 | 7 |
| | Officers' Reports | |
| 2 | Regional Development Australia Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Membership | 9 |
| 3 | Small Business Growth Program | 12 |
| 4 | Economic Development Update | 20 |
| | Notices of Motion | |
| | Matters Arising | |

** Item includes confidential papers

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 11

1 DECEMBER 2021

AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2021(10) OF 4 NOVEMBER 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Economic and Industry Development Committee No. 2021(10) held on 4 November 2021 be confirmed.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

2. **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA IPSWICH & WEST MORETON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

This is a report concerning the nomination of an Ipswich City Council Councillor to become a Regional Development Australia (RDA) Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council nominate one Councillor as the Regional Development Australia, Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

3. **SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM**

This report outlines a proposed small business growth program that will assist Ipswich small businesses to increase their resilience, grow and create local jobs. Such support builds on Council's commitment to be a small business friendly Council whilst nurturing the local economy through supporting existing, local businesses.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the proposed small business growth program to increase the resilience and scale growth of local businesses through subsidised professional development.

4. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

This report provides an economic development activity update, showcasing key economic highlights of the past six months and key activities of Council's Office of Economic Development.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received and the contents noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MATTERS ARISING

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2021(10)

4 NOVEMBER 2021

MINUTES

COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic (Chairperson); Councillors Jacob Madsen (Deputy Chairperson), Mayor Teresa Harding, Councillors Kate Kunzelmann and Andrew Fechner

COUNCILLOR'S APOLOGIES: Nil

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE: Acting Chief Executive Officer (Sonia Cooper), Acting General Manager Corporate Services (Sylvia Swalling), General Manager Community, Cultural and Economic Development (Ben Pole), General Manager Planning and Regulatory Services (Peter Tabulo), Executive Services Manager (Wade Wilson), Manager Economic and Community Development (Cat Matson), Manager Communication and Engagement (Laura Bos), Senior Digital Media and Content Officer (Jodie Richter) and Theatre Technician (Trent Gray)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

Nil

BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO. 2021(09) OF 7 OCTOBER 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

Moved by Deputy Mayor Nicole Jonic:
Seconded by Councillor Jacob Madsen:

That the minutes of the Economic and Industry Development Committee held on 7 October 2021 be confirmed.

AFFIRMATIVE
Councillors:
Madsen

NEGATIVE
Councillors:
Nil

Harding
Kunzelmann
Fechner
Jonic

The motion was put and carried.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Nil

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

MATTERS ARISING

Nil

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS AND FORMAL MATTERS

The meeting commenced at 11.05 am.

The meeting closed at 11.06 am.

Doc ID No: A7733716

ITEM: 2

SUBJECT: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA IPSWICH & WEST MORETON
COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

AUTHOR: MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report concerning the nomination of an Ipswich City Council Councillor to become a Regional Development Australia (RDA) Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Council nominate one Councillor as the Regional Development Australia, Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

RELATED PARTIES

The current Regional Development Australia Ipswich & West Moreton Committee includes:

- Lockyer Valley Councillor Janice Holstein (Chair)
- Albert De Rutter (Deputy Chair)
- Somerset Councillor Sean Choat
- Scenic Rim Councillor Duncan McInnes
- Roger Gorrel
- Allen Bruce
- Bronwyn Davies
- Vanessa Skinner
- James Sturges

There are no discernible related party matters arising as a result of this report and its recommendation.

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Chair, Councillor Janice Holstein has written to Mayor Harding formally requesting Ipswich City Council to recommend an elected Ipswich City Councillor to nominate as a RDA Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

RDA is a national network of committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support and broker economic development opportunities for their regions.

RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role in their regions and a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize on economic opportunity and attract investment.

RDA Committees are incorporated, not-for-profit community-based organisations. RDA Committee members are volunteers drawn from the region and who bring leadership, skills and experience from the community, business, local government and not-for-profit organisations. Each RDA Committee has a broad and diverse skills base, with demonstrated networks and alliances.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no discernible risk management implications arising as a result of this report and its recommendation.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

| HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| OTHER DECISION | |
| (a) What is the Act/Decision being made? | |
| (b) What human rights are affected? | No Human Rights are affected. |
| (c) How are the human rights limited? | Not applicable. |
| (d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? Is the limitation fair and reasonable? | Not applicable. |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| (e) Conclusion | The decision is consistent with human rights. |
|----------------|---|

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The are no discernible financial implications arising as a result of this report and its recommendation.

The RDA Ipswich & West Moreton Committee meets for approximately four (4) or five (5) hours (including travel time) every two (2) to three (3) months.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The has been no community or other consultation undertaken in the development of this report and its recommendation.

CONCLUSION

Council has been requested to recommend an elected Ipswich City Councillor to nominate as an RDA Ipswich & West Moreton Committee Member.

Cat Matson

MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER - COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

Doc ID No: A7714005

ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM

AUTHOR: MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 15 NOVEMBER 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines a proposed small business growth program that will assist Ipswich small businesses to increase their resilience, grow and create local jobs. Such support builds on Council's commitment to be a small business friendly Council whilst nurturing the local economy through supporting existing, local businesses.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Council endorse the proposed small business growth program to increase the resilience and scale growth of local businesses through subsidised professional development.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no conflicts of interest identified or declared in relation to the contents of this report.

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

In the 2021-2022 financial year budget, Council allocated \$150,000 to small business funding.

At the July 2021 Economic and Industry Development Committee meeting, it was endorsed that the 2021-2022 funding program be built on principles of 'Building Resilience' and 'Scaling Growth'.

In terms of 'Building Resilience' it was recognised that training workshops only support a business so far if they don't have the cashflow to implement new skills.

In terms of 'Scaling Growth' it was recognised that as a business grows the owner or leader/s face new challenges of complexity, beyond the skills and knowledge that has got them to their current stage of growth.

To deliver on these two key principles, three specific funding pathways have been identified.

Three Pathways to Resilience and Growth

It is recognised that different businesses and different business owners need different kinds of support to grow their business. Therefore, the Program has been designed to support all Ipswich businesses who wish to grow.

1. Take Your Business Online

The shifts in buyer behaviour and global supply chains as a result of the pandemic illustrated the value of a strong digital presence for small businesses. Further, the ability to sell online is a powerful way for bricks-and-mortar businesses to expand their footprint for comparatively lower overheads than if they were to expand their physical presence.

However, taking their business online is a daunting concept for many small business owners, with a vast array of options, tools, technologies and knowledge that is needed to be effective, let alone successful, online.

To empower Ipswich businesses to increase their resilience and grow by establishing an online presence, it is proposed to partner with Shopify, the world's number 1 ecommerce platform, to deliver a 'Take Your Business Online' program. Under the program, Ipswich small businesses would be able take their businesses online with a comprehensive education and coaching program and a 1-year subscription to the Shopify all-in-one ecommerce platform.

Utilising the small business funding allocation, eligible Ipswich businesses could receive up to 50% towards the program cost and first year's subscription to Shopify; substantially reducing the financial barriers taking their business online.

Shopify has been selected as the strategic partner for this program as they provide a comprehensive all-in-one ecommerce platform. This removes the complexity from taking participating business online while increasing the chances of online success in the most time- and resource- effective way possible.

2. Growth Accelerator Program

For businesses with a strong trading track record and an appetite to grow their business, the Growth Accelerator Program will help participating businesses create a strategic plan built on *their* best opportunities for growth.

The program will be conducted in partnership with GROEI (Growth Education Institute), Queensland specialists in regional business development programs. Local Ipswich facilitators will be engaged, leveraging the proven GROEI model.

The GROEI accelerator program is designed for small businesses to create and execute their growth strategy. Participants chart their path to success and, through the program, learn to drive the performance of their business so they feel in control, focused, and well supported on their pathway to growth. This program has been chosen specifically as it:

- Builds resilience by having participating business owners deeply understand the levers and success factors of THEIR business, their growth and their unique opportunities.
- Enables participating businesses to scale their growth by leveraging their strengths and unique opportunities; rather than trying to adopt a 'one-size-fits-all' program.
- Leverages a cohort model that not only strengthens and grows the participating businesses but also creates a resilient and growth-orientated local business ecosystem. Such an ecosystem will produce positive ripple effects in the local economy for years to come.
- Builds on 30 years of small business advisory experience with a regional-first focus. The stated purpose of GROEI is '*to facilitate the growth of sustainable businesses which will increase employment and economic sustainability in regional and urban communities across Australia and New Zealand.*'
- Affordable and accessible; designed specifically for grass-roots small businesses with a deep understanding of the time, financial and resourcing constraints such businesses face.

The total cost of the 12-week program is \$2,995 (ex. GST); for eligible businesses Council's Small Business Funding can contribute up to \$1,500 (ex. GST) for 24 businesses. In this way Council is supporting local businesses to accelerate their resilience and growth by reducing the cashflow-burden on the business.

3. Professional Development Program

For business owners who'd like to invest in a different form of capability or business development, funding of up to \$1,000 in matched funding will be offered to contribute towards professional development programs. This includes courses, coaching or advisory services that increase the business leadership capability of the business owners and leaders.

When applying for the funding, business owners will need to articulate how their chosen professional development program or advisory will assist in developing their leadership capability. Under this stream of funding, only credible and verified training providers or advisors will be approved, with proof of attendance / completion required before funding is paid to the business owner.

This stream will assist local business owners to increase their own resilience and capabilities, in turn, empowering them to grow their businesses.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Risk

There is a risk that the participating businesses don't complete their chosen programs or don't grow as anticipated.

This risk is mitigated through the application process where applicants will be assessed as to their growth-readiness, capacity and suitability of their chosen program. The risk is further mitigated by the design of the program, providing support and regular check-ins from the economic development team.

Financial Risk

There is a risk the program is over-subscribed and not all applicants can be funded. Competitive funding criteria will be put in place to ensure those businesses who can benefit the most receive the funding, while any who don't receive funding are supported through Council's usual concierge and business support services.

'Good Faith' Risk

There is a risk that applying business owners aren't genuine in their desire to increase their capabilities, boost their resilience or grow their business. This will be mitigated in the application process and in the payment process; funds will be paid (in stages where appropriate) to the business owners as reimbursements after proof of attendance and payment has been received by the community funding and support officers.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

| HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS | |
|--|---|
| OTHER DECISION | |
| (a) What is the Act/Decision being made? | Recommendation A states that Council endorse the proposed small business growth program to increase the resilience and scale growth of local businesses through subsidised professional development |
| (b) What human rights are affected? | No human rights are affected by this decision. This is because the proposed program enhances access to education. The program, and the decision, doesn't restrict or interfere with the relevant right of right to education. |
| (c) How are the human rights limited? | Not applicable |
| (d) Is there a good reason for limiting the relevant rights? | Not applicable |

| | |
|--|---|
| Is the limitation fair and reasonable? | |
| (e) Conclusion | The decision is consistent with human rights. |

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Small Business Growth Program is funded from the \$150,000 small business funding allocation in the approved 2021-22 Economic and Community Development operational budget.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

This program has been designed in close consultation with the region’s Chambers of Commerce and local small businesses.

Letters of support for the program, from the Chambers, are attached.

CONCLUSION

To empower growth and increase resilience in Ipswich’s local businesses, it is proposed that Council use its 2021-2022 small business funding program to subsidise professional development programs for eligible small businesses.

Three development pathways have been identified:

1. Take Your Business Online
2. Small Business Growth Accelerator
3. Self-directed professional development

These pathways will help more than 150 local small businesses to increase their resilience, grow and in time, create new local jobs. In such a way, the Small Business Funding program will become a powerful investment in the Ipswich small business economy.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Letter of Support - Business Funding Program ↓  |
| 2. | Ipswich Region Chamber of Commerce Letter of support - Business Funding Program ↓  |

Cat Matson
MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole
GENERAL MANAGER - COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community”

Item 3 / Attachment 1.



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W: www.gsc.com.au
ABN: 87 232 931 629

22nd November 2021

Cr Nicole Jonic

Chair, Economic and Industry Development Committee
Ipswich City Council
1 Nicholas St
Ipswich, QLD 4305

Dear Cr Jonic,

As President of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce I wanted to let you the Chamber wholeheartedly supports the proposed Small Business Growth Program.

After a couple of incredibly tough years, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is keen to support our local businesses to grow, rather than just survive and to build their resilience as they do so. We can see the proposed Small Business Growth Program will help both the growth and resilience outcomes.

As President of the Chamber, I'm also supportive of the choice of education providers; GROEI and Shopify. There is inherent value in building a cohort of businesses who are working on their growth plans together, and the Shopify offering makes it simple for local businesses to take their business online.

Thank you, Cr Jonic, for yours and Council's relentless support of local small businesses. We are proud to partner with you in growing the city's economy and will continue to partner with council in the delivery of this program.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Coupland', is written over a white background.

Neil Coupland
President, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

Our Major Annual Partners



Item 3 / Attachment 2.



Ipswich Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc
Bremer Chamber of Commerce
Level 1, 164 Brisbane Street, PO Box 251, Ipswich, Qld, 4305
Phone: 07 3810 8377
ABN: 65 328 844 554
Email: eo@ipswichchamber.org.au
Website: www.ipswichchamber.org.au
Facebook / LinkedIn / Instagram

22 November 2021

Cr Nicole Jonic
Chair, Economic and Industry Development Committee
Ipswich City Council
1 Nicholas St
Ipswich, QLD 4305

Dear Cr Jonic,

The Ipswich Region and Bremer Chambers of Commerce are wholeheartedly supportive of the proposed Small Business Growth Program and we commend the recommendation to Council to endorse the program.

It's no secret it's been a challenging couple of years for Ipswich businesses. Council's financial support through the COVID-19 recovery program along with fee relief was welcomed by this Chamber. Now that we seem to be emerging from COVID restrictions, it's time to turn our attention again to growing the local economy through growing our local businesses.

Assisting our small businesses to take their product-based businesses online using Shopify, will be a fantastic way to improve revenue resilience as well as expand market opportunities. And the GROEI Small Business Accelerator Program will provide a fabulous opportunity for local businesses to better understand their competitive strengths, further develop their business models and strategically grow from a place of insight and strength, rather than guesswork and random activity.

Once endorsed, the Chamber would welcome the opportunity to be a strategic marketing and delivery partner in the Small Business Growth Program. We look forward to continuing to work with you, Mayor Harding and Council's Office of Economic Development in empowering Ipswich's small businesses to grow.

Cr Jonic, please pass on our thanks to the Council for your unwavering support of our local businesses, especially the small ones. We are proud to work in partnership with you to grow our local economy by building capability among our existing local businesses who choose Ipswich over other regions in which to start, operate and grow.

Sincerely, in support of local business,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Bell', with a horizontal line underneath.

Phillip Bell
President and Chief Executive Officer
Ipswich Region & Bremer Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Doc ID No: A7708617

ITEM: 4

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AUTHOR: MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 11 NOVEMBER 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an economic development activity update, showcasing key economic highlights of the past six months and key activities of Council's Office of Economic Development.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the report be received and the contents noted.

RELATED PARTIES

There are no discernible conflicts of interest arising as a result of this report and its recommendations.

IFUTURE THEME

Vibrant and Growing

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

Council's Office of Economic Development (OED) aligns its resources and efforts towards:

1. Encouraging local business growth by supporting local small businesses
2. Revitalising Ipswich Central as the region's central business district and in doing so, creating the right conditions for local business growth and new investment; and
3. Attracting new investment opportunities from within and outside of the region

Contextual Highlights

Before presenting an update of Council's economic development activity there are several relevant market developments worth noting.

- The Icon Building, at 117 Brisbane Street Ipswich, was sold for \$144.9 million, a record price paid for an office building in Queensland outside of Brisbane. The transaction, which saw Cromwell Funds Management Limited sell to Castlerock, is a major signal of confidence in the opportunities in Ipswich. Castlerock director, Adam

Bronts was quoted as saying “Castlerock was attracted to the long-term growth prospects of the Ipswich region, which is Queensland’s fastest growing local government area”.

- Melbourne-based developer, ID Land has established its Queensland base by purchasing the remainder of the 177ha Waterlea Estate Walloon, from RBG Services. The 1800-lot residential estate, which has 1400 lots yet-to-be-developed, was purchased by ID Land for approximately \$70 million. ID Land Managing Director likened South-East Queensland’s growth to that of Melbourne ten years ago, with the Ipswich acquisition set to strategically anchor the group for future home construction in Queensland.
- Ipswich Central real estate agents are reporting that the previous vacancy rate of almost 30% on commercial properties is significantly reducing.
- Ipswich Central commercial property sales have been strong with over 16 transactions in the past month alone. Most of these purchases have been made by owner-occupiers which bodes well for quality businesses in one of the city’s key precincts.
- Ipswich property developers including Walker Corporation, Goodman Group, Springfield City Group and Sekisui House are reporting strong commercial, industrial and residential interest and transactions since the start of the financial year.
- JBS Dinmore is reinstating its third shift (that was stood down in the height of the pandemic), signalling the bounce-back of the meat industry and return of 700 Ipswich jobs in the next 12 months.

Supporting Small Businesses

It has been previously reported that Council has renewed its partnerships with both the Ipswich Region and Greater Springfield Chambers of Commerce. These partnerships have produced 18 Chamber events in the past six-months, providing education and networking opportunities for local businesses. The highlight to date has been the respective Chambers’ Awards, with 320 attending the Ipswich Region Chamber of Commerce Awards at the Ipswich Showgrounds and more than 200 attending the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Awards at the Ipswich Civic Centre.

In addition to supporting the region’s Chambers, OED has also facilitated a series of education and networking workshops for local businesses. Since 1 July, 390 participants (in total) have attended 39 workshops across 3 locations – Fire Station 101 Ipswich Central, Springfield Central Library and Rosewood Library, topics covered include:

- Financial Management

- Business Planning
- Marketing Strategy
- Online Marketing
- Facebook Marketing
- Selling to Council and Government
- Grant and Tender writing

Council continues to open up procurement opportunities to local and small businesses, this work will continue as a priority project under the Small Business Friendly Program.

Revitalising Ipswich Central

Revitalising the cultural and commercial heart of the region is a key to stimulating economic growth. In addition to the ongoing redevelopment of the Nicholas Street Precinct, last month Council endorsed the new Ipswich Central Positioning Framework and Place Plans for Top of Town and Ipswich Centre Core.

Further, the 2021-22 round of the Ipswich Central Façade Improvement Program will see a total of \$446,563 (\$130,000 Council and \$316,563 private) invested in improving the street appeal and walkability of Ipswich Central. This in turn is contributing to Ipswich Central business confidence and is fuelling commercial interest. All twelve of the recipients of the Façade Improvement Program are local businesses and all are using local contractors and trades to complete their façade upgrades.

Investment Opportunities

As State borders open and general economic conditions improve, so has the interest and appetite from local and interstate investors.

At time of writing the local investment team are involved in a total of \$1.7 billion in investment projects which, when realised, will generate 13,000 jobs, these opportunities include:

- New food manufacturing facilities
- New advanced manufacturing facilities
- Medical centres
- Medical research and production facilities
- Hotel and accommodation opportunities
- Building supplies manufacturing

Since the last update, the following investment opportunities have been realised:

- SAAB Deployable Health Capability established at Citiswich Business Park - \$370M; 150 jobs during construction; up to 40 operational and testing jobs
- Yamanto Village initial stages – opened mid-2021 (ahead of schedule) - \$135M; 250 jobs.

Further, the Department of Defence has commenced the final evaluation of the Land 400 Phase 3 tender, of which Rheinmetall Defence Australia (RDA) is one of two proponents. Should RDA be successful it would result in 300 new jobs at the Redbank RDA MILVECHOE facility and a total contract value of between \$18-27 billion. The project is scoped to build and support up to 450 Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

With border restrictions easing the Office of Economic Development will be hosting a number of interstate investor briefings and regional tours in the new year. The team are working closely with local property developers, investors and the Department of State Development.

LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No risks have been identified in providing this update.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

| |
|---|
| HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS |
| RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORT |
| The recommendation states that the report be received and the contents noted. The decision to receive and note the report does not limit human rights. Therefore, the decision is compatible with human rights. |

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications in the activities outlined in this report. All activities are funded from approved 2021/22 Operational Budget.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

No consultation was undertaken in the preparation of this report.

Industry and community consultation is a consistent feature of the work of the economic development team.

CONCLUSION

Council's efforts in driving the economic growth of the region have positioned the city well to capitalise on emerging market opportunities as Australia comes out of COVID-restrictions.

Council's reputation as a small business friendly council is growing, both through Council's own programs and the partnerships with the Ipswich and Region and Greater Springfield Chambers of Commerce.

The ongoing work to revitalise Ipswich Central is driving business and investor confidence and the investment pipeline is both strong and yielding strong outcomes.

Cat Matson

MANAGER, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Ben Pole

GENERAL MANAGER - COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community"