

BUSINESS NSW

NENW Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes Thursday, 24th August 2023, 9.30am

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 438 432 793 846

Passcode: BCKaD6

Attendees:	Paula Martin – Business NSW, Executive Director, Regional NSW and The Visitor Economy		
Chair:	Tim Coates Leanne Brock, AMETS Rosie Bloch, Boss Engineering TBC Best Employment Tim Coates, Business Coach David Crough, NBN Matt Sweeney, Bell Partners Daniel Meyer Diane Gray Stephanie Jones		
Minutes:	Kaitlin Jarvis , Business NSW Central Coast		
Apologies:	Tanya Scales, Healthwise		
1	Welcome 1.1 Previous minutes & apologies Apologies are noted as above. Minutes from previous RAC meeting were moved by DC and LB. 1.2 Conflict of Interest No Conflict of interest was registered. 1.3 Elect President and Vice President Tim Coates nominated himself as President, seconded by DC. Stephanie Cameron was nominated as VP and accepted the role. Seconded by DC.	Tim Coates	2 min
2	RAC Governance PM to circulate RAC Councillor induction pack, post meeting.	ALL	5 min
3	Regional business impacts DC – Reported on their recent travels throughout the NENW region. They observed a general sentiment of a post-COVID slump among businesses. Interestingly, some businesses mentioned that COVID had actually benefited them, but they experienced a decline in business after the pandemic. DC also highlighted their attendance at the well-attended AGquip field day. Additionally, they noted that the landscape in the NENW region appeared to be dry during their travels. SC – Recently attended the Bush Summit which was an excellent event. SC noted the renewable energy zone in the NENW is a hot topic when you talk about live work and play and this being an inviting region, they're talking about putting the 500 kilowatt power lines right through the region. SC noted that it is devaluing property and it's aesthetically displeasing. SC commented that it's going to affect a lot of businesses, lot of farming, regional agricultural. SC noted that that agricultural businesses are really being badly affected by invasive pests and animals. SC also agreed with DC about the post COVID slump. I think there is a little bit of that around.	ALL	20 min

	<p>LB - discussed her company's involvement in the mining industry, specialising in compliance consultancy. She highlighted the current trend of frequent movements of individuals within the industry and emphasised the occurrence of numerous takeovers. LB noted that during COVID there was a lot of money being thrown around and a lot of overseas investment coming into Australia. LB noted that this really boosted our exploration in mining. LB continued to explain that for those junior companies are really struggling which is resulting in the takeovers.</p> <p>MS – Attended the Bush Summit but noted that it was rather disappointing as there wasn't anything new announced. Renewable energy was a topic that Tamworth Chamber recently ran a session on. MS mentioned the lack of awareness and knowledge among the community when it comes to renewables.</p> <p>ST – Mentioned that they are seeing lots and lots of consolidation. There are significant numbers of smaller rural and remote providers in the aged Care World that are either closing their doors or transitioning to larger providers which is causing a significant impact. ST mentioned that there are huge clinical shortages, particularly in the rural and remote space, which are negatively impacting on services. ST mentioned this comes down to a compliance factor as well because of the legislative requirement.</p> <p>NW – spoke of the obvious skill gap post covid. NW mentioned that there are 2-3 year gaps on resumes from people that were unfortunately unable to maintain employment during that time. NW mentioned a resurgence of locally owned businesses people opening up businesses and reopening closed shops in the Armidale area that were closed through Covid.</p>		
4	<p>Regional Director Update</p> <p>During the meeting, PM provided an update stating that Diane Gray has been appointed as the new Regional Director for the NENW region. Diane's selection was based on the objectives of BNSW to rebuild the brand and strengthen relationships at the local, state, and federal levels. It was essential to have someone with expertise in strategic planning, navigating government protocols, and working closely with government departments.</p> <p>PM mentioned that DG will work closely with the RAC to add further councillors in 2024.</p> <p>PM put the call out for judges to assist with the NENW Awards event happening in October.</p>	Paula Martin	15 min
5	<p>General business</p> <p>N/A</p>	Tim Coates	10 min
6	<p>Close</p> <p>Meeting closed at 10:13am</p>		5 min