

Item 12.2 Growth & Strategy Activities

Reporting: Growth & Strategy Manager – Helen Thomas

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the Growth & Strategy activities for December 2021.

DISCUSSION:

Tourism

Visitor Survey

An agreement with KIRDO has been reached for them to collect responses to the King Island Visitor Survey (KIVS) from the beginning of January 2022. As done previously, responses will be invited from every passenger departing the Island on an RPT flight on a rolling 8-day basis. To improve efficiency in data collection and analysis, respondents are now offered use of a tablet to complete the survey online, removing the need for data entry of a paper-based survey. COVID-safe practices have been established regarding these tablets which are sanitised after each use and UV sterilised at the end of each data collection day.

Conversations with Tourism Tasmania regarding their sponsorship of the KIVS will be raised with the CEO of Tourism Tasmania when he visits King Island in early January.

Interstate visitors return

Borders opened on December 15th as planned, with most operators reporting strong bookings for the upcoming summer and into the shoulder season.

As was expected, once borders opened COVID-19 arrived within our community. While tourism businesses were fully prepared to manage individual cases within their business the timing and scale of the outbreak is likely to lead to further disruption to the Island's tourism industry.

West by North West

King Island was visited by its Regional Tourism Organisation, West by North West (WxNW), in mid-December. As well as hosting an end of year celebration, WxNW continued to familiarise themselves with the various tourism offerings of the Island and met with a number of operators.

A highlight of the trip was discussion with two members of the community who have been working on development of a King Island app – a way of guiding our visitors around our Island. Potential grant funding has been identified and the King Islanders are working with WxNW on how best to proceed. Further information on this project will be shared as appropriate.



Economic Development

Regional Jobs Hub

A stakeholder engagement session was hosted in Burnie in mid-December bringing together industry representatives, employment service providers, youth advocates and government organisations. The purpose of the whole-day workshop was to determine a direction for the Regional Jobs Hub's strategy. The breadth and range of issues facing our region is extraordinary, but it was clear from this first meeting that there is a lot of commitment to addressing those issues in a measured and focussed way.

A draft strategy has been pulled together around concepts and objectives developed during the workshop. The Board have been invited to review this draft and will be working through it in detail at their next meeting on 18 January.

Telecommunications

We are still awaiting further information about the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Grants Program (RCGP) funding for King Island's telecommunications system upgrade. Telstra have suggested that works will commence as soon as the grant deed is signed by the State & Federal Government and will take up to two years to complete from that time.

No information has yet been provided to Council of the broader impacts of Telstra's plans to remove access to ISDN and other "special" services to the Island from 31 May 2022.

King Island Hub

The Federal Government's Community Development Grant Program (CDGP) administrators have been provided with all the information required to prepare a grant deed for execution. We have been advised that this has been presented to the department head and will be forwarded to the Minister's office imminently. More information is expected in January.

Further to Council's decision at its ordinary meeting in December 2021 discussion has commenced with Core Collective Architects regarding their potential role as lead architect and project manager. A comprehensive scope of works is being prepared with a breakdown of associated fees. This will be reviewed by the Growth & Strategy Manager, General Manager and the Hub Working Group before a decision made on how to proceed. Early preparation of this scope of works will enable Council to act quickly and effectively once the grant deed is signed.

Community Development

Safeguarding Volunteering

A Memorandum of Understanding between King Island Council and Volunteering Tasmania has been entered into regarding delivery of the Safeguarding Volunteering Project on the Island. As mentioned last month, this project is an excellent opportunity for Council to work with the King Island community – supported by Volunteering Tas – to



develop a strategy which ensures the future of our vital volunteer services and the volunteers who provide them.

The project will start in late January with training provided to Council staff on implementing a co-design process in the context of this type of strategy. The project lead from Volunteering Tasmania, Amy Bailey, will be visiting King Island in early February to meet with interested community members. Open meetings will be held in Currie, Grassy and Naracoopa, with full details to be shared over the coming weeks.

Amy is also hoping to visit the Island at the end of February and join Council at the King Island Pastoral & Horticultural Show to share more information about the project and begin our focussed engagement with the community.

Strategy for Older Tasmanians 2023-29

Council On The Aging (COTA) is leading this State Government consultation on promoting and facilitating active aging across Tasmania. Discussions with their project lead, Brigid Wilkinson, have indicated that Brigid may also be able to join Council at the King Island Show in March to share information about this COTA-led project. Following that event, Council will support the consultation through promotion of online surveys and distribution of hard copies. There is potential for Council to host or co-host a consultation event towards the middle of the year to build on those survey responses and promote further engagement with the King Island community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The activities detailed above are included within approved operational budgets, except where indicated otherwise.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note the Growth & Strategy Manager Activities Report for December 2021.

Moved Cr S Laidler
 Cr G Green

That Council receive and note the Growth & Strategy Manager Activities Report for December 2021.

CARRIED unanimously

09/21

