



WENTWORTH FALLS
Chamber of Commerce and Community (Inc.)

Voice of our Community Update. Autumn 2021

PO Box 51, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782 ABN 68 127 530 898

Summary of regular Meeting Minutes held on February 1, 2021

CCTV and Draft Policy – Replacement batteries have been fitted to various security cameras in the system. No police requests for CCTV footage were received in the previous three months. Apparent good news 😊

Wentworth Falls Businesses and Community, Continuing Impact of COVID 19 – Local businesses and the tourism industry are concerned about the impending closure of Job Keeper. The Chamber is to draft a letter to Federal Minister for Tourism highlighting concerns associated with the impact of the cessation of Job Keeper in March 2021. There will be a dramatic impact on Tourism industry in the mountains and we seek assurances that assistance will be provided to these businesses.

The new shop on the corner of Station Street and the GWH (Orson & Blake) is good for the Village however we are experiencing the highest shop vacancies in Wentworth Falls village in memory. Some businesses are doing well, others are not. It is a two-stage economy. The lack of international tourists is having a huge impact on the Blue Mountains tourism and business economy.

Federal Infrastructure Grants related to Infrastructure and Preparedness for Bushfires – The Chamber wrote to BMCC stating that WFCC&C Inc are interested in supporting BMCC to apply for funding for the Wentworth Falls Lake Circuit walk and the remediation work for the Over Rail Bridge. G Sherlock of BMCC responded and advised that the two projects were not within the scope of the Federal Program for Infrastructure Grants. Applications for these grants closed a week ago and five or six other submissions including BMCC and Blue Mountains tourism were submitted. The criteria is targeting economic development not infrastructure and to assist in the adaptation of business, education and training.

Pedestrian Safety on Rail Bridge, Station Street, Wentworth Falls – The accumulation of signatures for the petition was made more difficult with COVID and it was suggested that the petition with current signatures be forwarded to Council. The Petition has 450 signatures. People can still go onto WFCC&C Inc website to sign the petition. The meeting moved that the petition now to be forwarded to BMCC.

Anzac Day Memorial service – Will go ahead on April 25 with all COVID-safe measures in place.

Mayoral Business Reference Group - MBRG asked that WFCC&C Inc present a "bigger picture wish list" for grants. It was suggested we ask for **1)** Support of CCTV, **2)** Support for a renewed monthly stallholder market, **3)** Enhanced Christmas street decorations, **4)** Assistance with the cost of producing a new village brochure.

MBRG are seeking short-term items that can be put into their planning processes. Suggestions from members would be more than welcome.

Objectives of WFCC&C Inc. and updated Wentworth Falls Village Brochure – Map to be finalised. WFCC&C Inc to ask schools if they would be interested in assisting to designing the village map based on the previous brochure. We don't have a printable version of map. A report on cost and advertising charges for businesses will be tabled at the next meeting.

The next quarterly meeting is due to be held on Monday, May 3rd at 6.00pm. Venue TBC

Contacts:

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