

BUSINESS HUNTER

HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD
ACN 083 977 459

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 3 December 2021
at McDonald Jones Stadium, NSW 2292

Meeting Opened at 12.30

Present:

Ashlee Abbott	Marissa Dimarco	Adam Kelly	Jenny Roberts
Richard Anicich	Kathy Donaldson	Steph Loadsman	Nathan Roberts
Linda Apostolidis	Hennie du Plooy	Derrek Lush	Geoff Rock
Stephen Barr	Zac Ekandi	Holly Martin	John Schneider
Ben Belfield	Sue Elvers	Lee-Ann McMurray	Gareth Simpson
Allan Blackman	Peter Evans OAM	Valentina Misevska	Dan Skiner
Kate Bryant	Lauren Eyles	Anita Mitchell	Sharon Smith
Seamus Burke	David Flynn	Andrew Monger	Aaron Spalding
Annalisa Ceccato	Jim Garis	Robert Monteath	Christophe Steinbach
Diana Christopher	Peter Gesling	James O'Brien	Michelle Swift
Anna Chubb	Jamie Graham	Andrew Olsen	Ross Taggart
Calan Cockburn	Dianne Hamer	Tim Owen	Glenn Thornton
Amanda Coleman	Bob Hawes	Phil Paris	Paul Tobin
Sarah Collins	Matt Howard	Ian Pedersen	Jacqui Warren
Adrian Collins	Terry Hughes	David Pring	Amanda Watson
	Paul Jayne	Tony Rhodes	Brad Woollett

Item	Minute
1. Opening and Welcome	The President Tony Rhodes chaired and opened the 2021 Annual General meeting at 12.30 and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
2. Call for Apologies	Apologies were received from Kyle Loades, Paul Murphy, Natalie Mitchell, Martin Matthews, Daniel Hunter and Ben Riley and were noted.
3. Confirmation of 2020 Minutes	<p>The Minutes from the 2020 annual general meeting circulated prior to the meeting were noted.</p> <p>The chair noted there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting.</p>
4. Presidents Report	<p>The chair addressed the meeting and noted the challenging circumstances of the operating environment for Business Hunter and many of the member businesses over the financial year (report attached).</p> <p>The chair noted Business Hunter had achieved a cash surplus of \$9,832 which compared favorably to the forecast deficit of (\$27,213). This was noted as a strong result given the Covid circumstances and the impacts of the uncertainty on events and activity of Business Hunter.</p>

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Item	Minute
5. Annual Review, Financial Statements and Auditors Report	<p>The chair noted the Financial Statements incorporating the audit statement and annual review had been circulated prior to the meeting. The chair called for the adoption of the Financial Statements.</p> <p>The annual report incorporating the Financial Statements was endorsed on the motion of Jim Garis, seconded by Lauren Eyles.</p> <p>The chair noted one proxy from the Special Member (NSWBC) had been received appointing the President as their proxy.</p> <p>The chair acknowledged the support from the NSWBC in preparation of the accounts and thanked the work of the Audit and Governance committee and Martin Mathews from PKF.</p>
6. Other Business	There was no other business for which due notice had been given.
Close of meeting	The meeting closed at 12.45pm

Confirmed: Date:
(President)

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Hunter Business Chamber Annual General Meeting – Presidents Report 3 December 2021

Tony Rhodes, President

It is my pleasure to provide the President's Report for the 2020-21 financial year.

Just when we thought we'd put 2020 and its challenges behind us, along came 2021. This past financial year was another challenging one. Despite the team being arguably busier than they ever have, we like many businesses veered from strategic objectives in order to manage and deal with the impacts of the COVID pandemic.

For Business Hunter this was not necessarily from a direct operational viewpoint, but more in response to dealing with the needs of our membership to ensure their businesses and the Hunter region economy could continue to operate under the restrictions placed upon it.

I would like to touch briefly on some of the highlights of the year.

Because we were out of the blocks early in terms of getting back to face-to-face events in Q3 of 2020, we were able to reconnect businesses with the advice, commentary and opportunities coming out of lockdown in 2020 in a responsive fashion. We continued to lead the region in terms of connecting business with key decision makers at a particularly vulnerable time.

Our airport advocacy was a highlight – and our role as a key third-party advocate was highlighted by our organisation being chosen to host the celebratory breakfast event once the funding announcement was made.

Hunter Defence has made strong progress in getting the Defence Ready Seminar Series funded federally and off the ground. We are proud that our continued support, financially and in kind, has been critical to Hunter Defence's growth and we look forward to this continuing and benefiting a wide range of business and sectors across the region.

We continued with our 'CEO Connect' events for Hunter First members from Q4 in 2020 and these have realised some fabulous and unique opportunities. It's important that businesses learn from the experience of others and the Hunter has many great stories to tell.

In March of 2021 we launched the 'Business Hunter' brand at the Great Northern Hotel, the venue of the first meeting of our predecessor organisation the Newcastle Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 1886. The new name recognises the linkages we have with Business NSW and Business Australia in delivering for the business in the region and across the nation.

Unfortunately, we needed to again press pause on our face to face events in June as the Delta variant of COVID-19 wreaked havoc on business and community activities for a second season. Regardless of face to face status, we have continued to prioritise the needs of businesses and have adapted our advocacy practices and policy analysis to match the needs of business in the moment.

By approaching the challenges of COVID in this way, we have succeeded in positioning our region to benefit from many incentives and support from Government to ease the pressure on our business economy.

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In respect of the 2019-20 financial year accounts, the Hunter Business Chamber Ltd financial position for the year was a surplus on a cash basis, showing a net operating profit of \$9,832 which compared favorably to the forecast deficit of (\$27,213). A pleasing and positive result under the circumstances.

I wish to record the gratitude of the Board to not only Business Hunter staff but also staff at Business NSW who perform accounting roles on our behalf. There were again hurdles to clear this year as systems upgrades and changes continue to progress.

Apart from my fellow directors that serve on the Business Hunter board, I want to thank Martin Matthews of PKF who participates on our Audit and Governance committee and has done so over a long period of time to assist us in reviewing and presenting the final accounts.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of Business Hunter during this time and I'm looking forward to embracing the challenges of 2022. We have helped businesses navigate great and rapid change. We look forward to continuing to do so and engaging with our members and broader stakeholders across the region to ensure our advocacy continues to maintain the sharp focus in the interests of business in the Hunter.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

3 December 2021