

# HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD

ACN 083 977 459

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2020  
held at Surf House, Henderson Parade Merewether, NSW 2291

### Meeting Opened at 12.30

#### Present:

Peter Allonby	Hennie Du Plooy	Terry Hughes	John Richards
Scott Ambrose	Paul Duncan	Andrew Hutton	Matt Richardson
Richard Anicich	Jeff Eather	Bernadette Inglis	Nathan Roberts
Leah Armstrong	Timothy Edwards	Paul Juergens	Renata Roberts
Greg Bainbridge	Ross Edwards	Kyle Loades	Geoff Rock
Glenn Barber	Sue Elvers	Craig Long	Kyle Rollinson
Kenny Barry	Amy Etherton	Jacque Lubbe	Angela Schmidt
Ben Belfield	Lauren Eyles	Holly Martin	Jason Schutz
Sean Boyle	Angela Fiumana	Samantha Martin-	Chris Seysener
Katie Brassil	Liam Furlong	Williams	Julie Thomas-Bailey
Alex Broad	David Gallagher	Martin Matthews	Glenn Thornton
Alan Broadfoot	Michael Gant	Jenny McArthur	Chris Thoroughgood
Steph Brown	Jim Garis	Jelinda Millgate	Paul Tobin
Damien Butler	Brad Garrard	Andrew Monger	John Turner
Michael Clark	Tony Gearmeister	Robert Monteath	Justine Ulph
David Cliff	Simon Gelder	Jane Moran	Janette Valent
Tim Collins	Peter Gesling	Paul Muir	Alex Vandervoort
Pat Cooper	Jason Ginns	Kiraley Muller	Jonathan Vandervoort
Chris Cooper	Dianne Hamer	Paul Mullins	Troy Vitnell
Barbara Crossley	Maddy Hamson	Paul Murphy	Julie Wales
Lindsay Crutch	Bob Hawes	Kyle Payne	Cassandra Walker
James Cudmore	Angela Higgins	Lara Pratt	Chris Walker
Amy De Lore	Andre Hofman	Julie Polatos	Nola Watson
Michael Deacon	Andrew Hughes	Paul Quealey	Allanna Wigley
		Narelle Redman	Brad Woollett

Item	Minute
<b>Opening and Welcome</b>	The President Hennie du Plooy opened the 2020 Annual General meeting at 12.30 and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
<b>1. Apologies</b>	Apologies from Ian Pedersen and Tony Rhodes were noted
<b>2. Confirmation of 2019 Minutes</b>	The Minutes from the 2019 annual general meeting were noted on the motion of Peter Gesling, seconded by Narelle Redman. The President noted there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting
<b>3. Presidents Report</b>	The President addressed the meeting and noted the challenging circumstances of the operating environment for the Chamber over the year

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Item	Minute
	<p>(report attached).</p> <p>The President also noted the Chamber had achieved a cash surplus of \$47,014 up from \$12,114 in the previous period.</p>
<b>4. Annual Review, Financial Statements and Auditors Report</b>	<p>The annual report incorporating the Financial Statements was endorsed on the motion of Peter Gesling, seconded by Richard Anicich.</p> <p>The President acknowledged the support from NSWBC in preparation of the accounts and thanked the work of the Audit and Governance committee and Martin Mathews from PKF.</p>
<b>5. Declaration of Directors and Office Bearers</b>	<p>The President announced the makeup of the Board and Executive for the 2020/22 term following the recent election process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tony Rhodes, President;</li><li>• Lauren Eyles, Senior Vice President;</li><li>• Peter Gesling, Vice President</li><li>• Holly Martin, member of the Executive</li><li>• Hennie du Plooy immediate Past President</li><li>• Dianne Hamer, Director</li><li>• Glenn Thornton, Director</li><li>• Paul Tobin, Director</li></ul> <p>The President noted Natalie Mitchell and Jim Garis will continue in their roles on the board representing Business NSW and Hunter region Local Chamber Alliance members respectively.</p> <p>The President thanked the outgoing directors, Jane Moran, Narelle Redman, Geoff Crowe and Jonathan Vandervoort for their service and dedication.</p>
<b>6. Other Business</b>	<p>There was no other business for which due notice had been given.</p>
<b>Close of meeting</b>	<p>The meeting was closed at 12.45pm</p>

Confirmed: ..... Date: .....  
(President)

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## **Hunter Business Chamber Annual General Meeting – Presidents Report Friday 6 November 2020**

**Hennie Du Plooy, HBC President**

It is my pleasure to provide the President's Report for the 2019-20 financial year.

The 2019-20 financial year has brought some monumental challenges for business and has certainly tested the resources of the small but agile team at Hunter Business Chamber.

Even before COVID hit, many businesses across our region were already dealing with the considerable impacts of drought and bushfire. In fact, we convened a meeting of local chamber and council representatives from across the region in early March to discuss drought and bushfire recovery, just as the dark spectre of COVID was beginning to emerge.

Responding to the pandemic quickly took over as the major priority for business and for the Chamber and has remained so. The Chamber team, supported by the board, responded quickly. We took a leading role early in the crisis in articulating the needs and priorities of business to government and communicating to the business community the support and assistance available to them in a very fast-moving policy environment. The NBN News car became a regular sight in the Chamber car park as Bob conducted yet another interview to camera analysing the government's latest package or announcement.

Behind the scenes, we used our effective lines of communication through Business NSW and the Australian Chamber of Commerce to provide feedback from member businesses directly to ministerial offices involved in developing the state and federal governments' COVID response.

On many occasions that advocacy was successful in pointing out shortcomings in policies and programs that were, by necessity, being hastily developed, and ensuring they were amended to provide more effective support to business.

We moved quickly to take our events series online to ensure continue engagement with our membership and delivery of insights and information to assist their own responses to the crisis.

We presented our first webinar on April 16, attracting nearly 100 attendees, and delivered 15 in total before beginning to transition again to live events. Despite the disruptions of COVID, the Chamber delivered 35 events over the period of the financial year, 24 of them live.

We have also managed to largely maintain membership levels among both Firsts and core members, and we extend our sincere gratitude to each of you to you, our members, for your continued support of the Hunter Business Chamber.

I would like to formally thank Hunter Business Chamber CEO Bob Hawes and his team for the work they have done over the past year. The COVID curve ball turned their world on its head and the quick adjustments they made to operations around events, advocacy and connections with the membership was impressive.

I would also like to acknowledge the Board for their diligent work. The Board took steps to refine the governance model of the HBC providing a sharper focus for its activities. This process continues and it is often this unseen work in areas like risk reviews that make a significant difference in the outcomes for the business.

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In respect of the 2019-20 financial year accounts, the Hunter Business Chamber financial position for the year was a surplus on a cash basis, showing a net operating profit of \$47,014. This was a up from the operating surplus of \$12,114 in 2018-19. A very positive result under the circumstances.

We also saw in February the transition of the NSW Business Chamber to Business NSW and the launch of Business Australia. Our premium Hunter First brand continues to garner strong interest and solid support notwithstanding the difficult journeys many businesses have faced since March and we have already hosted four successful Firsts events since the relaxation of restrictions, including one with the Prime Minister.

I wish to record the gratitude of the Board to not only HBC staff but also staff at NSW Business Chamber who perform accounting roles on our behalf. There were some hurdles to clear this year with both systems changes and budget upheaval owing to COVID. The frenzy of work continued right through to 30 June and our Audit and Governance committee were also kept busy.

Apart from the board members that serve on this committee, I want to thank Martin Matthews of PKF who works with our Audit and Governance committee and has done so over a long period of time to assist us in reviewing and presenting the final account.

I will now turn to the Declaration of Directors and Office Bearers for 2020/2022.

Members will note there were 11 nominations for the eight Director roles that were being contested in an election conducted electronically. I thank those members that took the time to vote and from all reports, it was a smooth process to complete.

I also thank Ian Pedersen, Paul Murphy and Martin Matthews for performing duties as our election committee and scrutineers.

It is my great pleasure to announce to you the makeup of the Board and Executive for the 2020/22 term:

- Tony Rhodes, President;
- Lauren Eyles, Senior Vice President;
- Peter Gesling, Vice President
- And Holly Martin, a new director, will be the fourth member of the Executive

I will return as immediate Past President and Natalie Mitchell and Jim Garis will continue in their respective roles on the board representing Business NSW and our Local Chambers respectively. I am pleased to also announce the appointment of four new elected directors.

- Holly Martin, Director of the Marketing GP
- Dianne Hamer, CEO of Castle Personnel
- Glenn Thornton, Executive Manager, Projects with Port of Newcastle
- Paul Tobin, Partner with Sparke Helmore

On behalf of the Chamber, I would also like to acknowledge the unsuccessful candidates. We appreciate their interest in and commitment to the Chamber and thank you for your participation in what was an extremely close election process. I look forward to working with the new board into 2021 and again note President Tony Rhodes is unable to be with us today.

To the retiring board members, I also express our sincere appreciation. Narelle Redman, Jane Moran, Geoff Crowe and Jonathan Vandervoort, your contributions will be missed.

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It is not usual to single out particular board members in this context however, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Jonathan Vandervoort after more than 10 years' service on the board including serving as president from 2016 to 2018.

This was a critical period in the evolution of the HBC, with a new affiliation agreement being negotiated with the NSW Business Chamber at a time when we also had a new CEO. Jonathan, I know you will cherish many great memories of your time with the Chamber as a board member and President. We wish you the very best of health and enjoyment in your retirement.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.