



City of
Newcastle

CITY OF NEWCASTLE



BRIEFING COMMITTEE

Councillors,

In accordance with section 367 of the Local Government Act, 1993 notice is hereby given that a Briefing Committee Meeting will be held on:

DATE: Tuesday 16 March 2021

TIME: Following the Public Voice Committee

VENUE: Council Chambers
Level 1
City Administration Centre
12 Stewart Avenue
Newcastle West NSW 2302

J Bath
Chief Executive Officer

**City Administration Centre
12 Stewart Avenue
NEWCASTLE WEST NSW 2302**

9 March 2021

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**BRIEFING COMMITTEE
16 March 2021**

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BRIEFING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM-2 **BR 16/03/21 - COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE PACKAGE EVALUATION**

REPORT BY: **STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT**
CONTACT: **DIRECTOR STRATEGY & ENGAGEMENT / MANAGER COMMUNITY, STRATEGY AND INNOVATION**

PURPOSE

To report on an independent evaluation of City of Newcastle's COVID-19 Community and Economic Resilience Package (CERP).

BACKGROUND

On 24 March 2020, Council adopted the \$5.5m CERP in response to the then emerging COVID-19 pandemic crisis; one of the first government response across Australia.

The package comprised 10 programs over three tranches between April 2020 and June 2021 with a suite of financial relief, business and community supports – including interest free rate payment plans, rent reductions on council buildings, free online training, and community grants to support vulnerable and at-risk community members.

The CERP aimed to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for Newcastle through:

- i) Direct action to support community wellbeing;
- ii) Timely responses to address cash-flow for small business;
- iii) Innovative programs to provide long-term strategic legacy benefits for the city;
- iv) Collaboration with partners and support for existing initiatives; and
- v) Financial responsibility for the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

The Hunter Research Foundation Centre was commissioned to evaluate the CERP.

RECOMMENDATION

The briefing be received.

REFERENCES

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Community and Economic Resilience Package Evaluation Presentation - **distributed at the meeting**