



PO Box 538 Katoomba NSW 2780  
Economic Hub 2 Civic Place Katoomba  
T +61 (0) 2 4782 6555 F +61 (0) 2 4782 5211  
[jacqueline@bmee.org.au](mailto:jacqueline@bmee.org.au) [www.bmee.org.au](http://www.bmee.org.au)

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Ms Rosemary Dillon  
Blue Mountains City Council  
Group Manager Integrated Planning and Finance

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Dear Ms Dillon,

The Board of Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise (BMEE) has reviewed the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), *Sustainable Blue Mountains 2025*.

The plan's key direction chapter relating to 'Sustainable Economy' echoes closely, Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise's own strategic plan.

BMEE's mission is 'To stimulate economic development in the Blue Mountains through advocacy, investment and job creation, consistent with our competitive advantages.'

BMEE's vision is an expression of how the mission will unfold and is stated as:

By 2018 we will be the recognised economic development organisation for the Blue Mountains, delivering significant and measureable contributions to the economy through:

- Encouraging and supporting appropriate investment
- Opening the city for business
- Creating a sustainable and diversified business community

To achieve this ambitious vision, the Board has identified four key strategic pillars which will be the focus of the organisation's activity over the next three years. The pillars are:

- Health and well-being (including aged care and disabilities)
- Creative industries
- Education
- World-Heritage Industry Development (including tourism)

One of the key issues which will influence BMEE's ability to achieve these strategic goals is an appropriate digital infrastructure. BMEE is planning to develop a Digital Economy Strategy for the Blue Mountains. The strategy will examine how the Blue Mountains can take advantage of broadband connectivity to meet the needs of its present and future citizens. The preliminary evidence is that the Blue Mountains suffers from telecommunication disadvantages with very poor services across the Mountains (including the business centres of Katoomba and Springwood).

BMEE would encourage BMCC to address this constraint to economic development more rigorously within the CSP and to develop collaborative strategies with BMEE to address this imperative. In doing so, many of the emerging issues identified under the 'Moving Around' chapter within the CSP could be addressed with innovative solutions.

While the objective of building a sustainable economy is well detailed in the CSP, there is little acknowledgement to the impediments around facilitating this in relation to land use. BMEE encourages the CSP to identify the impact that the restrictive nature of the Council's current Local Environmental Plan has to economic development. The development restrictions are clearly acknowledged as a strategy for retaining the City's unique character, but are not noted in sufficient detail as an emerging issue / challenge within the Economic Development chapter.

In general, the Community Strategic Plan allows the BMEE Board to reflect on its own strategic imperatives and has reinforced that Blue Mountains City Council's and Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise's activities are well aligned and reflective of the Community's aspirations.

Yours sincerely,



Donald Luscombe AFSM FCA  
Chairman  
Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise