





The BMEE team at the 2016
Bushfire Building Conference
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Photo by Cardigan Street
Photography

UP ON MOVING

**Blue Mountains
Economic Enterprise
(BMEE) is the peak
regional economic
development agency
in the Blue Mountains,
Australia.**

Mission

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

BMEE is funded by Blue Mountains City Council, works collaboratively with all levels of Government and the private sector and operates as an independent entity.

Vision

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

- Encouraging appropriate investment
- Positioning the City for business
- Strengthening a sustainable and diversified business community

Four pillars

To achieve the vision, BMEE has four key strategic pillars, which are the focus of the organisation's activity:

1. World-Heritage Industry Development (including tourism, food and bushfire building innovation)
2. Health and Well-Being (including aged care and disabilities)
3. Creative Industries
4. Education

H I G H T S

Economic Research

BMEE provides an economic research hub for Blue Mountains' businesses and the community. A suite of industry profiles, a full economic and demographic report and an interactive on-line economic analysis tool are available free of charge to enhance economic development in the Blue Mountains. BMEE has provided over 20 economic impact reports to assist investment, business development and funding procurement efforts.

Creative Industries

Through the Blue Mountains Creative Industries Cluster and the MTNS MADE campaign, BMEE is positioning the Blue Mountains as a world class creative hub. These initiatives have resulted in national and international exposure for the City, new creative business partnerships and productions, relocation of businesses to the Blue Mountains, expansion of small business production, new jobs and hundreds of thousands of dollars in new local contracts.

Bushfire Building

The Bushfire Building Conference and Expo was developed by BMEE as an economic resilience initiative following the 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires and has become Australia's only national industry and community event focusing on planning, designing and building for bushfire prone areas. More than \$2m of local contracts are attributed to the Expo and The Bushfire Building Conference is positioning the Blue Mountains as a hub of knowledge in planning, designing and building in bushfire prone areas.

Food

Through the Food Industry Development Project, BMEE is helping the tourism and hospitality industry position the Blue Mountains as a quality food destination. BMEE provided support

for more than 800 businesses in the first 12 month period. Surveys indicate a 30% increase in the use of regional produce amongst the local cafes and restaurants who took part.

Advocacy

BMEE presents polished, apolitical advocacy for the Blue Mountains aimed at stimulating innovative and strategic initiatives for the City. Informed by quality data and strong consultation, BMEE represents the Blue Mountains in a positive light to key influencers. Over the last three years, Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise;

- successfully led efforts for the Blue Mountains to be included on the NBN rollout schedule
- is leading advocacy efforts for the establishment of tertiary education in the Blue Mountains
- is leading efforts for the establishment of a co-working space in the Blue Mountains
- developed the successful regional advocacy report on behalf of the City of the Arts Trust, which resulted in \$179,000 of new ARTS NSW program funding in 2016
- successfully lobbied for adjustments to regulations within Blue Mountains Industrial Zones to increase the opportunities for employment growth

Building Connections

Bringing leaders and influencers together to inform a bold strategy for economic development, BMEE:

- led a regional Health Industry roundtable of health sector leaders to review Allied Health industry development opportunities
- is forming an investment leadership taskforce to attract business and grow employment opportunities
- is facilitating discussions amongst tourism industry leaders to advocate for an integrated and holistic tourism planning framework

Investment Attraction

BMEE works to attract industry sectors and businesses that will assist to grow employment and strengthen the local economy, whilst also working with existing businesses to support efforts to expand operations and increase investment in the Blue Mountains. BMEE is becoming increasingly known as the first point of contact for businesses seeking to invest / expand in the Blue Mountains.

Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise
aims to stimulate, diversify and grow
the economic base of the Blue Mountains



Research and analysis



Advocacy



Investment
attraction
initiatives



Resilience
building
initiatives



Industry
development
initiatives



MTNS MADE

Creates and supports new
businesses and strengthens
existing businesses

Increases attractiveness
of Blue Mountains as a
business destination



More
locally
based jobs



Higher
salaries



Increases
local spending



Builds
local markets

Result:

A resilient, diverse and growing Blue Mountains economy

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