

Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA)

'Ways of Working'

Workshop Output - 26/09/23

Overview

Two independent reviews of AEDA have been undertaken over the past 6 months. The first was conducted by KPMG and it focused on macro matters and the future orientation of AEDA. The second was conducted by Deloitte and it adopted a more compliance/micro perspective. The great majority of recommendations from both reports were operational and are being systematically dealt with by AEDA and council staff.

Both reviews also recommended that a workshop be convened between senior members of AEDA, Adelaide City Council and Elected Members to enhance the 'ways of working' across the respective parties.

In order to maximise the time set aside to explore 'ways of working' those attending the workshop were asked to consider the two question below. Suggestions proposed during the workshop in relation to each question are presented in *italics* below.

Q1 - What can be done to enhance the collaboration between AEDA and Council?

The following suggestions were presented:

- *Elected members are invited to attend AEDA Board meetings.*
- *Draft minutes from AEDA Board meetings can be circulated to elected members.*
- *AEDA to continue its quarterly reporting to council.*
- *Agendas for AEDA Board meetings can be circulated to elected members.*
- *Pinch/pain points between council administration and AEDA to be identified and rectified.*
- *AEDA to complete its strategic plan.*
- *It was acknowledged that AEDA is a subsidiary of Council and does not need to be micro-managed.*
- *The independent reports have identified areas for improvement within AEDA and so it was time for elected members to move on.*
- *Identify the red tape that is impacting on AEDA.*
- *It is important to not forget precincts and 'mainstreet' associations.*
- *AEDA to continue with post covid support of small business.*

It was concluded that council staff will work with AEDA to address the operational issues identified in the independent reports. It was also thought to be important that AEDA be supported by elected members to action its strategic plan and achieve the economic outcomes.

Q2 - What enhancements would benefit the reporting from AEDA to Council?

The following suggestions were presented:

- *The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee be asked what reports they would like/prefer from AEDA.*
- *It was suggested that creative and innovative ideas be tracked and reported.*
- *That the Subject Matter experts on the board to work with council to determine the best suite of performance indicators*
- *The economic development framework from council to include more outcome measures.*
- *Budget bids to be discussed earlier in order to allow more time for thoughtful consideration of such.*

It was concluded that the economic development framework from council will shape the strategic plan of AEDA which in turn will impact on the quarterly reports and the metrics therein.