

12 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

12.1 Minutes: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - 25/08/2026

Responsible Director: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

- 1 25/08/2026 - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - minutes [↓](#)

Enclosures

Nil

RECOMMENDED

That the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 25 August 2026 be received and noted.

Background

The minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 25 August 2026 are enclosed.

Item 12.1



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

commencing at 1 pm on

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026

Council Chambers, 11 Manning Street, KIAMA NSW 2533

Item 12.1

Attachment 1

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

**MINUTES OF THE
AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY 25 AUGUST 2026 AT 1 PM**

PRESENT: Mr David Pendleton (Chair)
Ms Rhonda Wheatley

BY TEAMS: Ms Lisa Berwick
Councillor Melinda Lawton (non-voting)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jane Frawley - Chief Executive Officer
Darren Brady – Director Infrastructure and Operations
Joe Gaudiosi – Director Corporate and Commercial
Kimberley Norton – Executive Manager Organisational Reform
Renee Winston – Manager People and Culture
Jose Diaz – Chief Financial Officer
David Boleyn – Head of IT Service Delivery

**ATTENDANCE BY
TEAMS:** Michael Kharzoo – Director – Financial Audit | NSW Audit Office
Eric Nathaniel – Associate Director -Financial Audit | NSW Audit
Office
William Makdessi – Cyber Risk Lead | InConsult (by Teams)
Orlando Barrun – Chief Information Security Officer – Illawarra
Regional Councils

OBSERVER: Councillor Cameron McDonald (Mayor)

1 APOLOGIES

Nil

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1.08pm and acknowledged the traditional owners.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member Wheatley advised that she has been appointed to the Hunter, Central West and Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisations Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

Member Berwick advised she has been appointed to the following:

- Chair to the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption Audit and Risk Committee
- Chair to the Camden Council Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

Member Pendleton advised he has been appointed to the NSW Police Audit and Risk Committee.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 26 May 2026

26/021ARIC

Resolved that the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 26 May 2026 be confirmed.

(Members Berwick and Wheatley)

The Chair brought forward item 7.1 to allow William Makdessi from InConsult to present to the Committee.

7.1 Internal audit update

26/022ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes:

1. The progress of the audits according to the Strategic Internal Audit Plan.
2. The final reports of the completed internal audits from last financial year, cybersecurity and performance management.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

Noted:

- Council's cyber security maturity was assessed at a higher level than initially expected.
- Council has made significant progress in implementing the Essential Eight controls and is approaching Maturity Level 1.
- Management acknowledged the identified gaps and advised that many had already been recognised prior to the assessment, with remediation activities underway.
- Discussion occurred regarding the transition from the current Essential Eight framework to the updated Essentials framework and the implications for future reporting. Many existing controls, including multi-factor authentication, are expected to map directly to the new framework, assisting with the transition.
- The updated framework places greater emphasis on areas not comprehensively addressed under the Essential Eight, including identity and access management, and third-party risk management, and has an increased emphasis on governance, policies, defined roles and responsibilities, and broader organisational security practices.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

- Comparative analysis between the current and future frameworks should be possible, supporting continuity of reporting over time, with reporting formats maintained as consistently as possible throughout the transition period.
- Assessment methodology is largely binary, requiring controls to be fully implemented and operating effectively in order to be assessed as compliant.
- Challenges associated with vulnerability management and patching timeframes were discussed, including the need to balance identified vulnerabilities against practical implementation timeframes and organisational risk thresholds.
- The importance of Council developing and maintaining a broader information technology strategy alongside its cyber security strategy was highlighted, noting that wider ICT issues also require attention to support long-term organisational resilience.
- Member Berwick questioned whether the target dates for the performance management audit are achievable. Staff advised that as the audit was completed in June many of the recommendations had already been started or have been implemented immediately.

William Makdessi and Orlando Barrun left the meeting.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

6 ARIC ACTIONS ARISING

6.1 Actions arising from previous meetings

26/023ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes the August 2026 report on action items arising from previous meetings.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

Action: Director Corporate and Commercial to send an out of round email to the Committee on the status of the breach of the counter party limit.

7 ARIC STANDARD REPORTS

7.2 Progress report on implementation of audit recommendations

26/024ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes the information in the progress report for internal audit recommendations.

(Members Berwick and Wheatley)

Noted:

- Priority levels have been added to the table of recommendations.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

- All internal audit recommendations have been added to TechOne which will improve reporting, and include percentage completion rates and traffic lights.
- Staff will be reminded of the importance of completing internal audit recommendations, particularly high risk items

7.3 Risk Management Report

26/025ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee:

1. Note the update and information in the Risk Report for August 2026.
2. Approve the DRAFT Annual Risk Management KPIs subject to feedback received from Committee Members.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

Noted:

- The Strategic Risk Register categories remain appropriate and are not expected to change significantly. A strategic workshop will not be required.
- The Operational Risk Register has been upgraded and provides improved navigation, reporting capability and easier sharing of risk information with risk owners.
- All enterprise risks, not solely safety-related risks, are now captured, creating a single source of truth to support consistent risk interpretation, analysis and decision-making.
- Discussion highlighted the importance of operational risk reporting in providing visibility of current activities, emerging pressures and organisational risks, supporting greater ownership and accountability by risk owners.
- Director Infrastructure and Operations provided an update on the Blue Haven Terralong (BHT) fire safety rectification works, including resident support arrangements, temporary relocation of affected residents and management of construction impacts.
- Members noted the evolving regulatory environment, native title considerations and challenges associated with future Expressions of Interest and potential leasing pathways affecting Holiday Parks and Crown Lands matters.
- Ongoing monitoring and management of psychosocial risks continues, including risks associated with public interactions and peer-to-peer workplace issues.
- Learnings from recent ICAC matters have informed updates to recruitment training and policy, with a continued focus on conflicts of interest, the Code of Conduct and compliance with recruitment procedures.
- The Committee considered potential conflict of interest matters relating to Public Works involvement in the BHT rectification project. Appropriate declarations have been completed and no conflicts have been identified that would impact delivery of the project risk function.
- KPI draft to support annual attestation provided to the Committee, awaiting feedback.

Action: The CEO to include in the 2027 ARIC Work Plan a requirement for risk owners to periodically report on operational activities, pressure points and emerging risks within their areas of responsibility.

Action: The CEO to report to the December 2026 ARIC meeting on native title and associated significant strategic risks.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

7.4 Receipt of Varied Performance Improvement Order

26/026ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes the Performance Improvement Order, including its implementation timeline, and the obligations required to satisfy the Order.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

Noted:

- Council recently held a whole management session and a councillor strategic session focussing on revenue streams and strategy.
- Despite all efforts it will be difficult to reach the targets set by the Order.

7.5 Draft Annual Financial Statements 2025-26

26/027ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee receives and reviews the draft 2025-26 General Purpose Financial Statements, Special Purpose Financial Statements and Special Schedules and provides feedback prior to them being referred to the Audit Office of NSW for audit.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

Noted:

- The Committee acknowledged the substantial improvement in Council's financial reporting processes over recent years and thanked the Finance Team for their efforts.
- Several matters remain under review, including grant accounting treatments and asset revaluation considerations, prior to finalisation of the statements.
- Management presented a proposed accounting treatment relating to Independent Living Unit (ILU) refurbishment expenditure within BHT.
- The Committee discussed the accounting treatment of refurbishment works undertaken on resident departure and generally supported the preliminary view that the expenditure should be treated as capital expenditure, subject to further assessment and documentation, noting the works may extend the useful life and service potential of the asset.
- The Committee requested preparation of a position paper outlining the proposed accounting treatment, supporting rationale and consideration of any prior-period implications to be considered by ELT.
- A review of building valuations and useful lives had been undertaken ahead of the scheduled 2027 revaluation cycle as part of broader asset management planning activities.
- The Committee agreed that any changes to valuation methodologies or useful life assumptions should be clearly documented and supported by appropriate position papers.
- A review of asset useful lives, benchmarked against peer councils, resulted in adjustments to depreciation for several asset classes. The approach has been

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

discussed with the Audit Office and emphasised the importance of maintaining clear documentation to support the revised assumptions and associated impacts.

- A position paper on the BHT valuation approach to support audit review and consideration of key assumptions will be prepared for ELT consideration.

Action: CFO to circulate responses to Committee member questions, and provide an updated version of the financial statements and position papers for out-of-session review, prior to the October 2026 ARIC meeting.

7.6 Statement of Investments - July 2026

The report will be resubmitted to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee once updated and corrected.

Noted:

- The Committee discussed Council's investment exposure to institutions with BBB credit ratings. The current investment holdings are within both Council's Investment Policy and the Office of Local Government investment framework.
- The Committee discussed the presentation of cash balances, including the distinction between restricted and unrestricted cash and the use of internally restricted funds.

Action: Director Corporate and Commercial to review the Investment Policy and provide advice to the Committee on the appropriateness of current credit rating thresholds.

7.7 2025-26 End of Financial Year Report

26/028ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes:

1. The Monthly Financial Report for June 2026.
2. The operational budget carry forwards of \$26,000 into the 2026-27 budget, reflecting existing contractual commitments and projects that have commenced prior to year end June 2026.
3. The capital budget carry forwards of \$3.8M into the 2026-27 budget, reflecting existing contractual commitments and projects that have commenced prior to year end June 2026.
4. The capital budget revotes of \$60,000 into the 2026-27 budget in respect of projects not commenced at year end June 2026.
5. That with respect to the above adjustments, the Chief Executive Officer will identify possible savings of \$1.61M to offset the adverse impact to unrestricted cash, and split \$1.584M in capital expenditure and \$26,000 in operating expenditure, which will then be presented to Council through upcoming quarterly business reporting processes in 2026-27.

(Members Berwick and Wheatley)

Noted:

- The End of Financial Year Report has been endorsed by Council and was provided to the Committee for information.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

25 AUGUST 2026

7.8 External Audit Management Letter update

26/029ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee note the progress made by Council in addressing prior year management letters raised by external auditors.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

7.9 Building Revaluation Reports 2026/27

26/030ARIC

Resolved that the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee notes the information relating to the Buildings Revaluations report and that the Executive Leadership Team are conducting a further review of the report.

(Members Wheatley and Berwick)

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following reports were provided for the Committee's information:

- 8.1 Building Asset Management Plan.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 Budget build

Action: The CEO to provide a report to the December 2026 ARIC meeting on how the budget is built and the process involved.

10 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.32pm.

These Minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 September 2026.

.....
Chair

12.2 Minutes: Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee - 20 August 2026

Responsible Director: Strategies and Communities

Attachments

- 1 20/08/2026 - Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee - minutes [↓](#)

Enclosures

Nil

Item 12.2

RECOMMENDED

That the Minutes of the Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 August 2026 be received and noted.

Background

The minutes of the Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 August 2026 are attached for Councillors' information.



MINUTES OF THE TOURISM & ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

commencing at 4:00 PM on

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026

Council Chambers, 11 Manning Street, KIAMA NSW 2533

Item 12.2

Attachment 1

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20
AUGUST 2026

MINUTES OF THE
TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HELD AT KIAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
ON THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2026 AT 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Matt Brown (Chair), Suzanne Mansfield, Simon Smith, Tom Abood and Anne-Marie Esler

ATTENDEES: Sally Bursell – Manager Tourism and Economic Development
Ed Paterson – Director Strategies and Communities (from 4.21pm)

1 APOLOGIES

Apology

[26/023TEAC](#)

Resolved that the apology tendered from Councillor Yasmin Tatrai and Craig Hardy be accepted and the leave of absence granted

(Members Smith and Mansfield)

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

The Chair, Councillor Brown declared the meeting open and acknowledged the traditional owners.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee Minutes: 21 May 2026

[26/024TEAC](#)

Committee recommendation that the Minutes of the Tourism and Economic Advisory Committee meeting held on 21 May 2026 be received and accepted.

(Members Smith and Esler)

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20
AUGUST 2026

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6 REPORT OF THE MANAGER TOURISM AND EVENTS

6.1 Kiama After Dark Strategy

26/025TEAC

Committee recommendation that TEAC note the progress of the Kiama After Dark Night-Time Economy Strategy and the investigation of a potential Special Entertainment Precinct.

(Members Esler and Smith)

Discussion Points:

- Manager Bursell, gave an overview of the draft Strategy which covers the whole Municipality.
- The Strategy was publicly exhibited from 1 April to 28 May 2026. Submissions were received with feedback being broad support for the intent of the document, however concerns relating to Council's ability to implement , with many respondents seeking clearer priorities, responsibilities and measurable outcomes. Recurring themes included support for live music, events and youth activities, simplification of approvals processes, the need for improved lighting, transport and safety.
- The second part of the Committee conversation was regarding the trial Special Entertainment Precinct – an action within the Strategy and funded by the Office of the 24hr Economy Commissioner Grant.
- The Committee discussed the positive aspects of a business being within a SEP boundary with Director Strategies & Communities, Ed Paterson, explaining some benefits from a planning perspective
- The Committee requested a follow up online meeting be convened once the draft boundary had been completed. In this meeting to also present an overarching list of benefits/risks a SEP might bring for those within a boundary.
- Next steps involve a Planning Proposal to amend the Kiama LEP being reported to Council and then submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) with a request for Gateway Determination (permission to exhibit).
- The community will have an opportunity to again review and provide feedback on the proposed SEP, submissions review and document updates.
- The timeline for the SEP Trial is looking to be February 2027 but is reliant on the processing and approval of the documentation by DPHI.

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2026

20

6.2 Council-declared special events

26/026TEAC

Committee recommendation that TEAC recommend to Council that in accordance with the provisions of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008, the following events be declared Council Special Events for the purpose of facilitating extended trading hours for eligible non-licensed venues:

	Event	Date	Time	Nature
1	Kiama New Years Eve	31 December 2026	Until 2am	Community celebration
2	Kiama Show	22-23 January 2027	Until midnight	Agricultural Show
3	Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival	4-6 March 2027	Until midnight	Community music festival, multiple locations
4	Crooked River Winter Wine Festival	5-6 June 2027	Until midnight	Music festival, Gerringong

(Members Abood and Mansfield)

Discussion Points:

- Manager Bursell gave a brief rundown of the two types of declarations:
 - State-declared events: Events declared by the NSW Government under the Special Event Extended Trading framework. These are generally major events of state, national or international significance and provide eligible licensed premises with automatic extended trading hours for the declared period. Examples include the NRL Grand Final, Vivid Sydney, Mardi Gras, Australian Open Finals.
 - Council-declared events: Local festivals and community events that can be declared by councils to support activation, visitation and the local night-time economy. Examples may include established cultural festivals, agricultural shows and community celebrations. The list can be updated as new events emerge or existing events grow in significance.

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20
AUGUST 2026

- Chair, Councillor Brown, noted that it is not just restaurants and hospitality businesses that can add to an after dark experience for a patron. Retailers and other businesses dotted in between can contribute to making a nighttime experience interesting.

6.3 Destination Event Funding Program

26/027TEAC

Committee recommendation that TEAC recommends to Council:

1. To continue to support destination and major events through the Destination Event Funding Program and the broader support provided by staff through event facilitation, approvals assistance, destination marketing, capacity building and advocacy for external funding opportunities
2. To receive, note and endorse the post event report summaries for the following supported events:
 - a. KISS Arts Festival.
 - b. Kiama Red Cross Fun Run.
 - c. Jones Beach Boardriders South Coast Cup.
 - d. Crooked River Winter Wine Festival.
 - e. Kiama Coastal Classic.

(Members Esler and Smith)

Discussion Points:

- Due to Council's Performance Improvement Order (PIO), the annual budget allocated to the Destination Event Funding Program was reduced from \$100,000 to \$46,000 for 2026-27.
- Other competitive grant programs administered through Council's Community Grants portfolio were also significantly reduced.
- Chair, Councillor Brown, provided an overview of the post-event report summaries and noted that the reporting format was useful in demonstrating event outcomes and value.
- Manager Bursell advised that when assessing event outcomes, it is important to recognise the differences between ticketed and non-ticketed events, and between events that undertake robust attendee surveys and those that rely on estimates. Ticketed events can accurately report attendance through ticket sales, while non-ticketed events generally rely on attendance estimates, which may vary in accuracy. Similarly, events that survey attendees can provide verified data regarding overnight stays, visitor expenditure and travel patterns, whereas other events may need to rely on assumptions. These differences should be considered when comparing event performance.

**MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2026**

20

- From the perspective of the Destination Event Funding Program objectives, attracting overnight visitation remains a key priority, particularly during off-peak periods. However, consideration is also given to an event's ability to showcase Kiama's unique identity and culture, generate community benefit, attract diverse audiences and deliver a positive economic return on investment.
- Member Abood suggested on top of requesting professional event photos from the organisers, can we request that they also provide an estimated media value for the event to assist in measuring ROI.
- Manager Bursell advised that staff are currently reviewing options for the 2026-27 funding program, particularly in light of existing multi-year funding commitments. Subject to future budget endorsement and funding conditions, multi-year funding commitments currently exist for the following events:
 - Sydney FC Kiama Football Festival.
 - Jamberoo Car Show & Family Day.
 - Burnetts Garden Sounds Festival.
 - Kiama Sevens Rugby Tournament.
 - Kiama Beach Tag.
 - Crooked River Winter Wine Festival.
- Chair, Councillor Brown, noted that the Tourism and Economic Development budget has experienced significant reductions over recent years, including a reduction in destination marketing expenditure from \$100,000 to \$20,000 in 2024 and a 54% reduction in the Destination Event Funding Program budget for 2026-27. The trial of reduced Visitor Information Centre operating hours, reducing opening hours by two hours per day, has also generated operational savings while maintaining comparable visitor numbers and retail sales outcomes.

7 REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEAD

7.1 Small Business Month

26/028TEAC

Committee recommendation that TEAC recommends that Council explore partnering, supporting and delivering a selection of activities during NSW Small Business Month, including:

- I. Business capability workshops on topics such as AI, digital/social media, cyber security and developing an effective elevator pitch.
- II. A Business and Council Connect Session, enabling local businesses to ask Council questions, raise issues affecting their operations, and better understand how Council's planning, regulatory, environmental health and economic development functions can support business success.
- III. Working with KBN on the speed networking workshop to encourage business connections and collaboration.

(Members Mansfield and Abood)

**MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2026**

20

Discussion Points:

- Manager Bursell advised that the Small Business Month will be held during the month of October and is currently seeking feedback on priority topics, delivery formats and activities that would benefit local small businesses. A meeting has been held between Sally and Mel at KBN to discuss ideas.
- Member Esler advised that KBN's Micro Businesses Showcase will be held on Thursday 27 August at Kiama Surf Club and another event is planned at Hook and Ember at the end of October.
- Director Paterson noted that most of the two way conversations required to facilitate item II. are within his directorate and conversations had already begun on how this could be delivered.

8 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following Reports for Information were received and noted

- [8.1 Destination Kiama Partnership: Update by member Suzanne Mansfield](#)
- [8.2 Update on NYE Sky Show Funding](#)

8.1 Destination Kiama Partnership: Update by member Suzanne Mansfield

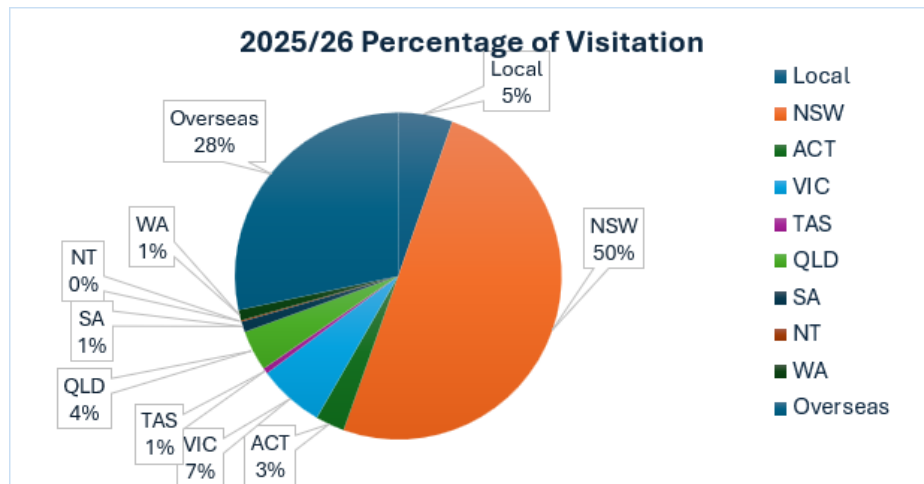
Discussion Points:

- In 2024/25 Destination Kiama finished the year with 168 partners, providing an income of \$33,681 (average \$200 per partner).
- As at August, 106 partners have rejoined and a commitment to rejoin received from 25 more.
- This year, the Destination Kiama partnership included optional extras including website banners and social media posts. Due to popularity this option has now been exhausted. These optional extras have assisted with driving up the income, so far sitting at \$27,359.00 (average \$258 per partner). The team are continuing to follow up businesses as we begin the work on the 2027 Kiama Visitor Guide.
- The Committee discussed the recent influx of tour operator's conducting tours from black minivans and in a number of recent discussions and observations have found that many are day trips tours, only stopping in to view the Blowhole and Tasman Drive and going to the toilet. However to the country, Member Esler had seen them occupying a number of cafes and restaurants throughout the day. It was determined that there are different tours available and making a variable impact on the local economy. Manager Bursell noted that this had become a topic of conversation on a Regional level with Destination Wollongong also witnessing the increase in smaller van tours.
- Manager Bursell provided a glimpse into the uptick of International visitors at the VIC

**MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2026**

20

- Annual walk-in visitor numbers for 2025/26 were slightly higher than the previous year despite reduced operating hours being introduced in April 2025, resulting in the centre being open two fewer hours per day. Walk-in visitation increased from 57,067 visitors in 2024/25 to 57,237 visitors in 2025/26, representing an increase of 170 visitors (0.3%).
- Strong growth in April, May and June offset declines experienced during some peak summer months, with June recording the strongest year-on-year increase of 23.1%.
- Gross retail sales decreased by approximately 5.17% compared with the previous financial year. However, this was considered a positive outcome given visitors had approximately 710 fewer trading hours in which to make purchases following the reduction in operating hours.
- Visitor origin data showed that 50% of visitors were from New South Wales, while 28% were international visitors.



- International visitor numbers increased from 510 in 2025 to 545 in 2026, representing growth of 7%. Significant increases were recorded from several markets, including:
 - China (+33%).
 - Japan (+68%).
 - Malaysia (+211%).
 - Taiwan (+125%).
 - Germany (+350%).
 - Singapore (+50%).
- These positive trends have continued into the 2026/27 financial year, particularly since the beginning of August, with visitor numbers increasing significantly.

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2026

20

8.1 Destination Kiama Partnership: Update by Suzanne Mansfield

26/029TEAC

Committee recommendation that:

1. Member Mansfield be thanked for following up on partnership membership renewals.
2. The recent increase in tour operator mini-van activity within the Kiama Municipality be noted.
3. Recent Visitor Information Centre visitation and international visitor statistics be noted.

(Members Mansfield and Esler)

8.2 Update on NYE Sky Show Funding

Discussion Points:

- Chair, Councillor Brown, advised the Committee that if all verbal sponsorship pledges are calculated, the funding target for the Kiama NYE Sky Show has been reached.

Organisation	Pledge
Kiama Council	\$20,000
Traders in Purple	\$19,000
Kiama Business Network	\$10,000
Cedar on Collins	\$10,000
South Break Media	\$5,000
The Sebel Kiama	\$5,000
One Fitness	\$5,000
Jamberoo Action Park	\$5,000
McMahon's Transport	\$5,000
Kiama Accounting	\$2,500
Saltwater Kiama	\$2,000
Elite Energy	\$2,000
Anonymous donor	\$2,000
HSC Global	\$2,000
Tiny Tins	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$95,500

MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE 20
AUGUST 2026

8.2 Update on NYE Sky Show Funding

26/030TEAC

Committee recommendation that:

1. The Destination Kiama team be thanked for pursuing sponsorship as well as the sponsors for their generous donations.
2. TEAC recommend that Council announce that the Kiama NYE Sky Show is back on.

(Members Esler and Mansfield)

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Employment Lands Strategy: Update

Discussion Points:

- A request from Member Esler to provide an update on the Employment Lands Strategy (ELS).
- Director Paterson gave a brief update and advised that the final ELS (after two rounds of exhibition and changes) will be reported to Council's meeting in September 2026. Details can be found here:

<https://yoursay.kiama.nsw.gov.au/employment-lands-strategy>

9.2 Next Meeting

- An out of round meeting to discuss the Special Entertainment Precinct will be held online on 3 September 2026.
- Next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 29 October, 2026, commencing at 4pm in the Council Chambers.

10 CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.49pm

These Minutes were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council
held on 15 September 2026

.....
Chair