

BSSB Beaudesert Workshop 1 – Living Local Economy Working Group Notes

At the BSSB Beaudesert Workshop 1 on Tuesday March 3, the focus was on Living Local Economy (LLE) and the Scenic Rim regional economic landscape. Working groups of businesses, council representatives and BSSB representatives were formed to explore two key questions:

1. What would the regional economy look like in 2029 if Living Local Economy was the foundation of economic development? (Scenario Planning)
2. What are the steps that need to be taken from 2009, to create a regional economy built on Living Local Economy principles and practices? (Backcasting)

The following ideas and themes were brainstormed by two working groups at this workshop. Note, the workshop was designed primarily for the Scenic Rim's tourism businesses so much of the working group focus was tourism sector related.

Working Group 1 – What would the regional economy look like in 2029 based on LLE?

- There are new forms of interconnected transport that incorporated many types of uses including tours, deliveries and courier services
- There are increasing levels of knowledge exchange across all sectors in the region (eg) interpretive centres, business directories, conceptual and practical information and knowledge
- There is a culture of engagement and shared vision that included physical and 'soft' forms of engagement
- LLE is a mainstream concept and an 'everyday' practice – it has been made visible and accessible to everyone in the region
- Our region actively addresses environmental challenges in an ongoing way and is dealing with them effectively and to the best of our abilities
- We celebrate our diversity through activities such as Slow Food initiatives etc
- We have a thriving regional economy based on sectors such as sustainable agriculture, because we have adapted to challenges and all sectors of the region work together for the region (community, business, government etc). Adequate government support and resourcing is provided to communities and businesses to work with external adaptation and challenges
- The Scenic Rim Region is a showcase of sustainability which includes natural environment, indigenous heritage and culture, non-indigenous history, sustainable business etc

- Our region achieved the best sustainability outcomes from the major projects underway in 2009 (eg) Bromelton Industrial Area was developed as a world's best practice example of sustainability
- Our region is vibrant, local and specialises in local produce, maximises local employment and business opportunities, is a hive of local tourism etc.

Working Group 2 – What would the regional economy look like in 2029 based on LLE?

- Our region looks similar to 2009 – a region made up of villages, a rural feel, healthy natural landscapes and ecosystems
- Our region researched and identified the carrying capacity of the region for population, tourism, business etc and developed caps which supported sustainability in all areas of the region (environment, economy, community, governance)
- Our business sectors are made up of people working together
- We have strong linkages across the region and clusters of businesses and communities band together to work together
- There is greater support for local agriculture
- We have a strong local food network (made up of initiatives like Food Connect – Community Supported Agriculture; 100 Mile Diet, Farmer's Markets etc)
- Nature based tourism is a very strong component of the regional economy
- The region has a strong understanding of Living Local Economy

Working Group 1 – How was LLE developed as the foundation for the region's economy?

- Strong community collaboration with local, state and federal government
- Government and community encouraged policies that supported Living Local Economy in the region (and provided transition/interim subsidies to enable LLE)
- New forms of communication and consultation to engage and empower *people* were developed and implemented across the region
- Leadership that prioritised for the future (eg) environment and sustainability became central to regional governance

- The region developed a strong, positive brand for tourism that was supported by quality, regional/local product. Tourism planning focused for the future

Working Group 2 – How was LLE developed as the foundation for the region's economy?

- Strategic regional planning was based on identification and understanding of the region's carrying capacity (eg) soil quality, water quantity and quality, climate and weather patterns, energy availability etc. Research and data collection was a priority in areas including ecosystem services/natural infrastructure, social and physical infrastructure. This strategic planning included government, industry and business, communities and residents, visitors to the area etc
- Alignment of values around the regional tourism culture between government and industry was created
- The region built its economy on a broad base of consumers and didn't rely on a single market.
- Strategic planning in the tourism sector was founded on building the resilience of regional tourism businesses
- Local investment yielded living returns
- Knowledge and communication was shared between government and communities
- Resourcing was provided for communities to build their local economies, infrastructure etc
- The regional/local food economy became a cornerstone of the wider regional economy: successful delivery of the FANT program; a data base of regional food growers, producers, suppliers and consumers was created; Community Supported Agriculture (Food Connect example) became a key part of the Scenic Rim Region; the 100 Mile Diet became a key part of the region

For further information about this workshop and its outcomes please contact:
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