



## PRESS RELEASE

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**TO: Media Contacts**

### Economic future a priority for Council

The Collie Shire Council's new Economic Development Advisory Committee will focus on diversifying and developing Collie's economy into the future.

Council voted to form the new committee at a special meeting on November 2, with the aim of forming and prioritising economic development strategies.

"Collie is entering an exciting and challenging phase as we seek a measured and stable transition from our dependence on the coal industry to a much broader, sustainable and self-sufficient economy," Shire President Sarah Stanley said.

"We need to ensure we are directing our focus in the right ensure we play a role in shaping the future to guarantee the best outcomes for our community," Cr Stanley said.

"Diversifying our economy plays a huge part in that. Whether it is identifying different forms of power generation technology, tourism, agriculture and small business, we need to position ourselves to take advantage of very opportunity," Cr Stanley said.

"The committee will engage with the appropriate stakeholders to identify and prioritise opportunities and map out a plan of action."

Councillors Jodie Hanns, Elysia Harverson, Joe Italiano and Bec Woods will join Cr Stanley and the Shire CEO David Blurton on the new committee, along with representatives from the Collie Chamber of Commerce, the South West Development Commission and Collie River Valley Marketing.

Collie-Preston MLA Mick Murray has also been invited to sit on the committee.

"It is integral that we work together with our local member so that we can pool resources and avoid overlaps wherever possible," Cr Stanley said. "His plan for Collie-Preston has identified a range of opportunities to safeguard Collie's economic future."

Expressions of interest will be called for up to two community members to ensure a cross-section of the community is engaged. For more information on how to be involved, contact the Shire on 9734 9000.

ENDS

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