



Northern Rivers Regional Manufacturers Forum

Background Research

As competition expands, demand changes, and technology eliminates borders, how do business people find ways to identify new markets and satisfy customers?

The Northern Rivers Regional Manufacturers Forum (NRRMF) recognizes the valuable and vital positive contribution of manufacturing within our region.

The NRRMF is a platform for manufacturing businesses within our region that have a need to improve but do not have the luxury of time and resources that is found in most multinational and large firms.

We will undertake initiatives and generate relationships to assist in the promotion, growth and sustainability of a diverse regional manufacturing base.

The Regional Economic & Industry Profile refers to ABS statistics and indicates there are approximately 1,281 manufacturing businesses in the Northern Rivers accounting for 5.2% of our industry profile.

7,020 workers are employed within the manufacturing industry within the region and this represents 8% of our total employment.

In 2008 manufacturing contributed \$725m or 9% towards our regional GRP.

To understand industry sectors and how they are performing the Northern Rivers Economic Profile produced by Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers in 2011 compares size, growth and employment share.

This comparison highlighted that Northern Rivers manufacturing has a high average annual growth and below non-metropolitan NSW average concentration. This implies that regional manufacturing is still an emerging industry that is growing and may need some assistance to mature.

Objective:

To identify opportunities for manufacturing in the Northern Rivers region, find ways to remove impediments to growth, source and make available relevant resources and work together to help strengthen regional manufacturing and economic growth.

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What is it?

The Forum is simply a group of like-minded individuals, co-operative businesses or supporting organisations who wish to work together and collaborate for economic growth.

Continuous improvement platform.



Meeting / Schedule Format

The Forum will meet bi-monthly at various locations across the Northern Rivers region.

To date meetings of the Forum have taken place each Monday afternoon @ 4.30pm – 5.30pm in the NSW Business Chamber office 2/54 Tamar Street, Ballina.

It is intended that these meetings will soon be hosted by participating manufacturers on their worksites.

Strategic Partners in the Forum delivery

- Ballina Shire Council
- Lismore City Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Kyogle Council
- Tweed Council
- Byron Shire Council
- Richmond Valley Council
- Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.
- Lismore Chamber
- Alstonville Wollongbar Chamber of Commerce
- Lennox Head Chamber
- Tweed Heads Chamber of Commerce
- Kingscliff & District Chamber of Commerce
- Casino Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.
- Grafton Chamber of Commerce
- Yamba Chamber of Commerce
- Maclean Chamber of Commerce
- Woodburn Chamber of Commerce

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- Byron United
- Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce
- Murwillumbah Chamber of Commerce
- Kyogle Chamber of Commerce
- Bangalow Chamber of Commerce
- Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Development Australia – Northern Rivers
- Northern Rivers Food
- NSW Department of Industry & Investment
- The Northern Star / APN
- Enterprise Connect
- Greenbiz Check

The role of these partners will be to promote Forum meetings within their contact networks of manufacturing businesses across the region.

A further involvement could also be in the provision of potential speakers with relevant experience and knowledge within the manufacturing space.

Potential Forum themes:

- Energy savings (JM to speak with Richard Wake)
- Financial monitoring and control processes/integrated manufacturing software
- Economy of manufacturing – Micah (NSWBC)
- Consultants – business coaching/improvement
- Best Practice HR Manuals
- Best Practice WHS Manuals
- Motivating & Engaging Employees
- Local Government Procurement officers – Advice and tips for contract tendering

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