

Local Governments plays a role in “New Economy”

Adele Johns

Local Government have an essential part to play in “the New Economy”.

Globally, local government entities are increasingly looking to new methods to build community capacity, stimulate growth and deliver services and programs within their shrinking revenue base.

To meet this emerging trend Central Coast Council has developed a unique approach to “community enterprise” – combining community and economic development principles to build community capacity and cohesiveness, strengthen localised employment and training opportunities and stimulate local economic growth.

At the core of this approach is a desire to stimulate local enterprise growth in a supportive environment, as such we have developed a Launch Pad program - a six step program that assists innovators ideas develop to a ‘launch’ ready stage.

In 2015 twelve local entrepreneurs have completed this program with some astounding results.

One participant; a marine biologist with a project idea ‘Duquaponics’ (a new concept of food sustainability) is now working with local manufacturing firms to pilot an innovative solution to sludge waste, having developed the idea during the Launch Pad program. The concept uses the processes of aquaponics to create fresh water and food sources such as vegetables, fish, etc. as a sustainable model to reducing manufacturing waste.

Another project that is now ready is a permaculture project located within a Council facility in a community housing estate, with high unemployment and disengaged community members. Introducing the practice of permaculture will enable the local community access fresh food while educating them on the benefits of sustainability and healthy lifestyles.

To assist consolidate learnings Council recently staged a Forum addressing the ten Blue Economy principals, creating a space for business, non-profits, entrepreneurs and individuals to come together - creating opportunities to collaborate in innovative ways addressing waste emissions and effective resource allocation.

Conference Themes: Work, Exchange, Our relationship with the natural world

Bio:

Community Enterprise Officer, Central Coast Council.

Adele has a passion for making a difference within the community, utilising her background in governance, finance, business and community enterprise development. Adele brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience across all sectors and is currently completing her candidature as a PhD student in the area of Governance and Accountability within the context of the non-profit sector. Embarking on a new project with Central Coast Council holding the position of Community Enterprise Officer, Adele is engaging key stakeholders within the community to effect change.