



EDUCATION & SKILLS DISCOVERY REPORT

Overview

The Entrepreneurial Discovery Process is a series of workshops that will endeavour to define and obtain support for the initiatives for innovation and economic development, based on evidence

The workshops are an opportunity for key business, government, community and research stakeholders to verify the evidence presented in the Regional Context Analysis about a particular local asset, and to confirm that there is at least one innovation opportunity which can develop from that asset. The workshop begins with discussion about the specific asset, and then engages in a process of imagining how the innovation opportunity based on this asset might develop over the subsequent 5-10 years. Depending on the outcomes of these conversations, the final part of the workshop moves to explore how this might be achieved, and identifies barriers to be addressed. Following the workshops an Innovation Working Group (IWG) may then be established to drive the defined project if it is deemed to be a viable opportunity.

Workshop Summary

The project basis the workshops on evidenced based data resulting from consultation with community, experts and stakeholders, historical and economic data and policy and frameworks influencing the region. The evidence for opportunities in education and skills through identification of the knowledge and skills existing within the community in history, trades and skills; the existing physical infrastructure and services of the Swifts Creek P-12 and early childhood education services. The challenges contributing to the identification of the need for improved opportunities in education and skills was the lack of sufficient childcare services including out of hours and services to support the numbers required, limited ability to complete further studies and skills upgrades while remaining within the area to support population and contribute to community services. However, one of the main barriers for supporting any initiative is the lack of available accommodation due to tenancy laws and development restrictions.

Discussion held during the workshop identified many points, including:

- ensuring high standard of education is a population and community growth enabler.
- the difficulty in attracting education providers and teachers to the area.
- the areas for greatest educational opportunities within the area include agriculture, environment, business and trade skills and photography.
- residential learning could be offered to improve diversity and cultural understanding and also support temporary population.
- with combined experience and knowledge of the area bush and fire management or risk mitigation can be provided by our community for the benefit of others.
- climate action is a valuable area for research and new technologies that can be piloted on a large scale within the area and provide isolated results to define the success of implementation in other areas.
- digital technologies are not well adapted in the area.

The most significant take-aways from the workshop were by engaging children from birth in social and academic learning, adults and guardians can also participate to promote social benefits and learning opportunities, while linking with existing and potential researchers within the area can enrich the community and create further opportunities through knowledge sharing. Working with tertiary facilities to provide more opportunities in the area and partner to deliver real-life experiences and education. While providing residential opportunities can increase diversity and knowledge base, as well as support the partnerships with researchers, educators and education providers.

Conclusion

It would be recommended to stand up an IWG to create an integrated lifespan learning community as it is a visionary and viable proposal that is a long-term sustainable and achievable opportunity.