

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



15 September 2015

MOU SIGNED FOR LAUNCH PAD SMART BUSINESS CENTRE

Council and Western Sydney University today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the view to working towards the future establishment of a LAUNCH PAD Smart Business Centre in Oran Park Town.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said that this is a positive step forward in connecting the business community of Camden and the broader Macarthur region with Western Sydney University (WSU).

“Council is committed to supporting business and education initiatives that will benefit our Local Government Area and the MOU is a fantastic example of this commitment.

“By working collaboratively with the University, Council will be able to maximise opportunities to drive education, innovation and economic growth.

“Were it to be established in Oran Park, the Centre would allow students, businesses, industry bodies and employees access to a range of business and education resources.

“By building knowledge based capacity that will generate investment and interest in our region, we will be helping to secure more employment opportunities for our residents,” Cr Symkowiak said.

Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover, said the University welcomes the opportunity to further explore the possibility of setting up a LAUNCH PAD Smart Business Centre in Camden.

“A Smart Business Centre would provide businesses in the region with access to a range of high-quality assistance programs and resources all designed to support innovation in one of Western Sydney's fastest growing areas,” Professor Glover said.

“Council already has a very well developed economic development agenda, and we share Council's enthusiasm to promote technology-focussed innovation across the region.

“Western Sydney University looks forward to working with Council on this exciting project.”

Camden Council Media Contact:

Belinda Howell

Team Leader, Community Engagement

Camden Council

Phone: 4645 5115

Email: emma.robilliard@camden.nsw.gov.au

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The MOU was signed by Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Sidgreaves and Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover.

The Centre would operate in partnership with government, business and the community to develop a range of initiatives and offer:

- Business facilities
- Education forums
- Networking opportunities
- Links for businesses to researchers
- Business advisory services and mentoring
- Access to government programs
- Introduction for businesses to student resources for internship and recruitment

Western Sydney University will also explore the opportunity to work collaboratively with the current 'Oran Park Smart Work Hub' operator, to share the resources already available through that facility, and which provide great synergies with LAUNCH PAD.

Further information on this initiative is available by contacting Council's Economic Development Officer on 4645 7614.

Camden Council Media Contact:

Belinda Howell
Team Leader, Community Engagement
Camden Council
Phone: 4645 5115
Email: emma.robilliard@camden.nsw.gov.au