



3 November 2017

Business leaders launch economic taskforce

Macarthur business leaders met today for the launch of the Camden Region Economic Taskforce (CRET).

Last month, the final four members of the CRET were endorsed by Council and will join Chairperson, Adriana Care and Council's representatives Mayor Lara Symkowiak and Cr Peter Sidgreaves on the recently formed taskforce.

"The role of the taskforce will be to guide and facilitate economic growth for the area, while working with local business leaders to leverage and enhance existing business and tourism opportunities," said Cr Symkowiak.

"The establishment of the CRET has been a long held ambition of Council and one which I am excited to see come to fruition," she said.

"Each member of the board brings with them skills and expertise that will contribute to facilitating investment and supporting the growth of business and industry in the area."

The Minister for Urban Infrastructure, the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP was also in attendance and provided an update on growth of the area as part of the future Western Sydney Airport catchment.

"Understanding the plans for the Western Sydney Airport will assist us to prepare and position the community to take advantage of the new economic opportunities that it will produce," Ms Care said.

"All levels of government are working together to deliver new infrastructure to support the rapid growth of the area and meet the needs associated with a metropolitan transport hub."

"These developments will alter the region's social and physical landscape and redefine the economic influences in the broader Camden area," she said.

The board will soon come together for its first meeting and a strategic planning workshop where they will be engaged to consider their plans to deliver on the vision of the taskforce.

Anyone with enquiries about the taskforce can contact Council on 4654 7777 or email: CRET@Camden.nsw.gov.au.

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BACKGROUND: Camden Region Economic Taskforce board members

Adriana Care, Principal Solicitor of Coutts Solicitors and Conveyancers and legal practitioner. Ms Care has maintained positions on the board of directors for a number of representative business organisations including as President of The Greater Narellan Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of Combined Chamber and Sydney Southwest Women in Business.

Lara Symkowiak, Mayor of Camden Council. Cr Symkowiak was first elected to Council in 2008 and has been Mayor since 2012. Cr Symkowiak is a small business owner in the Allied Health industry, having previously worked in the banking industry. Cr Symkowiak sits on a variety of Council committees and is also a member of the Sydney Western City Planning Panel.

Peter Sidgreaves, IT Manager, Sydney Catholic Schools. Cr Sidgreaves has been on Camden Council for more than five years, holding the position of Deputy Mayor on two occasions. Cr Sidgreaves currently serves on Council's Local Traffic Committee, Business Assurance and Risk Committee, and the Sydney Western City Planning Panel and has experience in small business management.

Peter Meadows, Owner Operator of a number of McDonalds Restaurants in South West Sydney. Mr Meadows holds positions as the Chairperson of Ronald McDonald House Westmead and is on the board of the Campbelltown Catholic Club.

Bruce Hanrahan AM, Principal Solicitor at Dignan and Hanrahan Solicitors. Mr Hanrahan holds positions on a number of boards and committees, including the South West Sydney Business Enterprise Centre, Carrington Centennial Care, St Gregory's College, Kids of Macarthur Foundation. Mr Hanrahan is also a member of Council's independent Business Assurance and Risk Committee, and a lifetime member of the Macarthur Law Society.

Belinda McLean, owner and General Manager of Human Resources Focus. Ms McLean currently holds a position on the board of The Greater Narellan Business Chamber and has been a board member of the South West Sydney Business Enterprise Centre and Youth Solutions.

Peter Campbell, Accountant and partner of Kelly Partners. Mr Campbell holds positions on the boards and committees of Youth Solutions, South West Sydney Academy of Sport, Western Sydney Academy of Sport and St Gregory's College Foundation.

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