



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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SMALL BUSINESSES IN HAWKESBURY AREA URGED TO SEEK ADVICE AMID \$14M PROGRAM BOOST

Businesses in the Hawkesbury area doing it tough due to COVID-19 are encouraged to register for the NSW Government's small business advisory program.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said local small businesses could meet with a Business Connect advisor for help dealing with the current situation.

"Business Connect advisors have been supporting a number of small businesses impacted by COVID-19 in recent weeks and the advice they give is free of charge," Ms. Preston said. "I encourage small businesses in the Hawkesbury area to get in touch with Business Connect to find out what ideas one of their experienced advisors can provide."

Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope said the NSW Government was injecting more than \$14 million into Business Connect to help small and medium businesses navigate this challenging time.

"We want to provide the help our businesses need to get out the other side of this crisis," Mr. Tudehope said.

"As part of this funding boost, we've allocated \$4.6 million to engage an additional 30 advisors to support businesses on top of \$9.8 million to ensure the program continues for another 12 months.

"Business Connect is a powerful tool, with advisors having assisted more than 28,000 businesses over the past three years, providing advice and skills training for small businesses.

"As a result, business owners have reported increased confidence and stronger finances. We've also seen these businesses create and support more than 15,000 additional jobs since 2017.

"And now Business Connect will be here to assist small businesses during this tough time with the support and information they need."

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said the funding would support Business Connect until June 2021, helping provide NSW businesses with the tools they need to stay in business, rethink their model and boost their digital presence.

"Business Connect was on the front foot, rolling out targeted support and Small Business Bushfire Information Sessions in regional areas following the recent bushfires," Mr. Perrottet said.

“As a result of COVID-19, more than 60 webinars are available through Business Connect to support businesses in developing a road map for success and managing cash flow amid challenging conditions.

“In addition, a series of COVID-19 Business Information Session webinars with representatives from various government agencies will be rolled out soon, to provide information about stimulus and support initiatives.

“Businesses impacted by COVID-19 and bushfires will be able to access the webinars and receive advice free-of-charge.”

Business Connect supports businesses to start, be resilient and grow by providing professional business advice and skills development events.

The additional 30 advisors will be funded through the new Working for NSW Fund.

Businesses can access support by visiting business.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect or call 1300 134 359.

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