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NSW COUNCILS SET TO BECOME SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY

NSW councils are set to become more 'small business friendly' thanks to a ground-breaking new initiative launched by the Minister for Local Government The Hon. Paul Toole MP at Liverpool City Council today called the Small Business Friendly Councils (SBFC) Program.

The SBFC Program has been developed by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in partnership with the NSW Business Chamber, and is the first of its kind in Australia.

"Councils who sign up to the SBFC Program will have the opportunity to review their procedures and practices in dealing with small businesses, make improvements where needed, explore new initiatives, and share 'small business friendly' strategies with other councils," Mr Toole said.

"I am delighted to announce around 35 councils have committed to participate in the SBFC Program, ranging from large metropolitan councils to small regional councils."

Councils in the SBFC Program must make five key commitments, including:

- reporting on business improvement processes and on-time payment policies in their operational plans;
- establishing a business advisory board in conjunction with key stakeholders from the local business community; and
- implementing new initiatives such as streamlining procurement or establishing pre-lodgement DA meetings.

NSW Small Business Commissioner Robyn Hobbs said the SBFC Program was a welcome initiative for the approximately 689,000 small businesses in NSW.

"Small businesses are the powerhouse of the NSW economy, and it is vital we ensure they have ample opportunity for growth and sustainability through improved relationships with government," Ms Hobbs said.

"Working effectively with small business operators should be a priority for all NSW councils. Through the SBFC Program, the OSBC and NSW Business Chamber will work more closely and collaboratively with councils so they are better placed to support and promote their local small businesses."

NSW Business Chamber CEO, Stephen Cartwright, said the Program provided a great opportunity for councils to demonstrate their commitment to the lifeblood of their communities – small business owners and their employees.

“The NSW Business Chamber has members across all local government areas in NSW, and by highlighting some of the good, and often simple, initiatives that some councils take to make it easier to do business in their area, less proactive councils might be encouraged to lift their game.

“The SBFC Program is the first step in highlighting that more can be done to enhance the relationship between councils and business, for the benefit of local communities.”

36 Participating Councils

Ashfield Council	Liverpool City Council
Ballina Shire Council	Nambucca Shire Council
Bankstown City Council	The City of Newcastle City Council
Blacktown City Council	Parkes Shire Council
Bland Shire Council	Parramatta City Council
Boorowa Council	Penrith City Council
The Council of the City of Botany Bay	Pittwater Council
Camden Council	Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
Carrathool Shire Council	Port Stephens Council
Coffs Harbour Shire Council	Queanbeyan City Council
Coonamble Shire Council	Randwick City Council
Deniliquin Council	Richmond Valley Council
Eurobodalla Shire Council	The Council of the City of Sydney
Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Tweed Shire Council
Greater Taree City Council	Tenterfield Shire Council
Griffith City Council	Upper Hunter Council
Gundagai Shire Council	Waverley Council
Hay Shire Council	Wingecarribee Shire Council

Media:

Olivia Deskoski, Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner, 0417 669 065
Damian Kelly, NSW Business Chamber, 0401 773 825