

23 September 2021

NEW ILLAWARRA REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ELECTED

Elections to the region's peak business advisory body, Business Illawarra's Regional Advisory Council, were held last night and have seen the elevation of a diverse array of business leaders to guide and inform the work of the advocacy group.

Incumbent president of the Illawarra Regional Advisory Council and Partner at Kells Lawyers, Amy Harper, was re-elected for a second, two-year term and said she was looking forward to working with the 20-member body to continue to support business and to grow the economy out of the pandemic.

"Last night saw the election of a highly-credentialled advisory body that I am proud to lead; one that will undoubtedly continue to provide strong business leadership and foster the vibrancy of our local business community," said Ms Harper.

"The previous two years have seen our community face - and overcome - the enormous challenge posed by the pandemic and related shutdowns, and the advisory council has provided ongoing guidance and insight to inform Business Illawarra's work."

"This has allowed Business Illawarra to drive strong advocacy for the region and shape the considerations of government, and provide a source of local advice and a means by which we have celebrated success through the IMB Bank Illawarra Business Awards."

"I'm looking forward to working with this new Council over the next two years to build on Business Illawarra's recent success in driving greater investment in infrastructure for our region, thought leadership on the decentralisation of work and advocacy that is driving economic growth and job creation across the wider region."

Executive Director of Business Adam Zarth said he welcomed the strong field of nominations to the Regional Advisory Council and looked forward to working with its members to drive tangible outcomes for the regional business community and the wider economy.

"Our newly elected Regional Advisory Council is a reflection of the quality and diversity of the Illawarra's business community, and we are privileged to have our work informed and shaped by such an influential body," said Mr Zarth.

"The next two years will be a time of immense opportunity for the Illawarra and I look forward to continuing our work to drive positive change in the region, and greater job creation and investment, in partnership with the 20 business leaders that comprise our Regional Advisory Council."

— ENDS —

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About Business Illawarra

Formerly the Illawarra Business Chamber, *Business Illawarra* is the region's peak business organisation, and the regional office of Business NSW responsible for the south-east of the state, including the Southern Highlands.

Members of the Illawarra Regional Advisory Council

Amy Harper , Kells Lawyers (President)	Kim Capp , South Coast Private Hospital
Andrew Webb , Webb Financial	Mark Grimson , Wollongong City Council
Brendan Goddard , Shoalhaven Business Chamber	Mark Sewell , Warrigal
Carol Berry , The Disability Trust	Matt George , Jamberoo Action Park
Damien Israel , University of Wollongong	(Dr) Melinda Williams , Peoplecare
Daniel Rowan , Internetrix	Michael Emmett , Kiama Chamber of Commerce
Graham Betts , Edmiston Jones	Peter Engelen , NSW Ports
Janine Cullen OAM , JC The Power of One	Ryan Aitchison , The Illawarra Hotel
Kara Lamond , Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute	Steve Horton , Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Vice President)
Karen Burdett , The CRAM Foundation	Tim Jones , MMJ Real Estate