

1 March 2022

SMALL BUSINESS MONTH A TIME TO CELEBRATE

The region's peak business organisation, Business Illawarra says the official launch of Small Business Month is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the thousands of small business owners, and their employees, across the Illawarra.

Small Business Month 2022 comes with the focus to Rebuild, Recharge, and Renew.

"The last two years have been incredibly difficult for the small business community, and sadly, some haven't been able to keep their businesses going," said Business Illawarra Executive Director, Adam Zarth.

"Small Business Month gives us all a chance to recognise our favourite small businesses and give them the encouragement to keep on doing what they do best," Mr Zarth said.

As an official alliance partner, Business NSW will be facilitating a number of workshops and events under the Small Business Month banner, bringing people together to share ideas, lessons and opportunities that have arisen through the challenges of the pandemic."

"It's also an opportunity to recognise the significant contribution of Local Chambers of Commerce, and many have been provided funding through the Small Business Commissioner to showcase their region during this month."

"Small Business Month is a reminder that as our lives slowly return to normal, your local small business still needs your continued support as they can't just snap back into a position of prosperity."

"Australia, and NSW in particular, is a small business economy, with almost 800,000 small businesses across the State employing over 1.6 million people and contributing \$400 billion each year to our economy."

"Together with our continued support, we can all help small businesses across the Illawarra Rebuild, Recharge, and Renew," said Mr Zarth.

There is a dedicated <u>Small Business Month webpage</u> containing information on a range of activities running right across the state, and online throughout the month.

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About Business Illawarra

Formerly the Illawarra Business Chamber, *Business Illawarra* is the region's peak business organisation; a not-for-profit advocacy group dedicated to the economic development of the Illawarra.