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# Have your say on business issues



By Chris Faulks  
Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to report on many of the initiatives that the Canberra Business Council has underway including the CBC Business Perceptions Survey.

## 1. CBC Business Perceptions Survey

Canberra Business Council is interested in hearing about the current issues that are of concern to business in Canberra and the Capital Region so we are surveying business during August 2008. CBC will use the survey results to present the priorities of the business community to Government, the Opposition and other parties in the lead-up to the 2008 ACT election.

### Have your say...

Now is the time to let Canberra Business Council know what issues are of concern to you in running and growing your business.

Go online and participate in the 2008 CBC Business Perceptions Survey: [www.canberrabusinesscouncil.com.au](http://www.canberrabusinesscouncil.com.au) and be in the draw to win a prize. The Survey is being conducted by Sweeney Research and supported by B2B in Canberra magazine.

## 2. Canberra Technology Centre

Canberra Business Council remains committed to raising issues that impact on the economic growth, development and sustainability of Canberra and the region.

In this regard Canberra's infrastructure requirements are inseparable from economic sustainability. CBC has recently partnered with the Conservation Council to support the development of light rail for Canberra and we continue to encourage the Federal Government to put high speed rail back on the national infrastructure agenda because of the enormous environmental and economic benefits a high speed rail system between Sydney and Canberra would bring to the Capital Region.

The Canberra Technology Centre (CTC) project is another important infrastructure project that is strongly supported by Canberra Business Council because it will bring real benefits to the National Capital Region and businesses within the ACT.

This \$1 billion project represents one of the biggest investments ever in the ACT. The Data Centre has the potential to diversify our economy beyond our current dependence on the public service and property tax

revenue by attracting high-value tenants. It will help to develop our IT workforce and benefit our building and construction industry sector. It will attract national and international customers of the highest calibre and create 300 jobs in the National Capital Region plus flow-on employment opportunities. If it passes through the appropriate planning and impact processes it should be immediately approved for construction.

## 3. NCA report

The Joint Standing Committee (JSC) on the National Capital and External Territories released the report of the Inquiry into the Role of the National Capital Authority on 16 July.

Canberra Business Council was pleased to see that a number of its recommendations were taken up in the report. In particular, CBC had recommended that, in addition to a formal mechanism for resolving planning issues that arise between the Australian and ACT planning bodies, a high-level consultative/advisory forum should be established involving the Australian Government, the ACT Government, the NCA and the Canberra business community.

The JSC took up this idea and recommended the establishment of the National Capital Consultative Council co-chaired by the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the ACT and the ACT Chief Minister with representatives from both levels of Government, ACT and Capital Region business and the community.

## 4. New website

Canberra Business Council has launched a new website with easy to access information about CBC events, programs, submissions and policies and direct links for members to IR and HR information, and products and services available through the NSW Business Chamber. [www.canberrabusinesscouncil.com.au](http://www.canberrabusinesscouncil.com.au)

### Upcoming events

7 August 2008 – Outlook 2020 Lunch – Professor Warwick McKibbin – What Climate Change will mean for business in the ACT

25 September 2008 – CBC Annual Dinner