

## BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT TASKFORCE

### Objective of the Task Force

The Objective of the Task Force is twofold:

- To ensure that governments and the community fully appreciate and welcome the central role that business plays in the health and well-being of the whole community; and
- To promote a business environment that supports long-term viability for current Businesses; especially a business environment that:
  - Attracts new businesses and investment to the Capital Region; and
  - Takes a positive role in ensuring that the natural environment is able to provide sustenance and benefits at the local, national and global levels for future generations

By the term “business environment” we mean the mix of:

- Business culture;
- Government understanding of what business is about, its regulation and decision-making that effects businesses;
- Entrepreneurial drive among business people;
- Capacity to look ahead and plan for the future good of the Capital Region;
- Engagement with the need, and associated opportunity, to successfully address global environmental challenges;
- Availability of investment capital; and
- A positive attitude in the wider community towards the integral role business plays in the life of our community.

We include those organisations sometimes referred to as “not-for-profit” within the ambit of the business environment.

Promoting that environment requires engagement by both the business community and the relevant governments. Both sides of this endeavour need to work together on the issues of:

- The impact of regulation on growth and innovation;
- Awareness of the effect of one side upon the responsibilities and interests of the other;
- Developing new work styles; and
- Encouraging
  - an entrepreneurial culture;
  - best practice in management and governance by local businesses; and
  - effective partnerships with the relevant governments.

It includes working with the ACT Government to broaden the Territory’s revenue base and contribute to its skills base (noting the work of the Council’s Education and Skills Task Force and its liaison with the Skills Commission).

## Key Work Areas

### **Business Friendly Jurisdiction Team**

#### *...short term*

Encourage governments, business and the wider community to value the contribution of business and economic growth to the future amenity of Canberra and to ensure the Capital Region is widely known as a business location of choice.

In particular, to:

- Assist the Government achieve its stated objective of being “unashamedly pro-business” and committed to actions that will make the ACT the premier business-friendly location in Australia
- Form effective partnerships with governments and the wider community to encourage business growth and efficiency, and
- Form effective partnerships with the media and the wider community to encourage business growth and efficiency

#### *...longer term*

To develop collaborative relationships with governments (Federal, Territory and State) that promote the link between the business, community and government in achieving the strategic directives of the ACT and the Capital Region.

### **Workplace Regulation Team**

The main thrust of the Team through 2008 will be in relation to OHS and Workers Compensation, as well as the IR framework.

Our “achievable” for year are to:

- Have substantial input to and influence on the New OHS Legislative Framework for the ACT;
- Have substantial input to and influence on the changes to Workers Compensation Legislative Framework for the ACT;
- Publicise notice of opportunities for comment, news of progress and advice in the Council’s Business Bullets, B2B and other journals for the information of Members of the Council; and
- Commence work on broadening the present focus and understanding of workplace safety and related regulation to include the services sector.

### **Flexible Workstyles Team**

With the national skills shortage affecting all businesses, the ability to work flexibly is fast becoming an important attraction and retention strategy. Research shows that it’s not just the traditional students and working parents that are demanding workplace flexibility. Generation Y through to baby boomers want more time in their busy life schedules to pursue other interests apart from work. Flexibility in workstyles is becoming a prime determinant of which employers are regarded as “employers of choice”.

## Members

### **Neil Primrose – Primrose Solutions**

### **David Segrott – Australian Health & Safety Services**

John Miller – Master Builders Association  
Mark McCabe – OH&S Commissioner  
Richard Faulks – Snedden Hall & Gallop  
Peter Fairburn – CE Industries  
Alan Reid – CGU Insurance  
Alan Campbell – Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers  
Frank Gillingham – Master Builders Association

### **Kate Sykes – Career Mums**

Margaret Beerworth – Diabetes Australia  
Monica Kennedy – Canberra University  
Des Lindhan – Hudson  
Hugh Chalmers – Meyer Vandenberg Lawyers  
Jane Hayden - Oakton

### **Phil Butler – Australian Institute of Company Directors**

Kathy Kostyrko – Hays  
David Gaul – Retired (CEA Technology)