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Warning about two per cent efficiency dividend on national institutions



By Chris Faulks
Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Business Council recently warned that the two per cent efficiency dividend imposed on Canberra's national institutions could have a devastating effect on the ACT and its \$1 billion tourism industry which employs 14,000 people.

To illustrate the extent of the impact, in 2007/08 fourteen NGA travelling exhibitions were displayed throughout Australia and abroad. In 2008/09 this number will reduce to nine.

In the case of the Australian War Memorial, government policy requires that the efficiency dividend of 3.25% is applied to employee costs but the Memorial is also required to deliver an annual pay increase of 4% in 2008/09. The Memorial will probably have no option but to reduce staffing levels and other activities from 2009/10 onwards.

Canberra Business Council will continue to lobby to make Canberra's national institutions exempt from the additional 2% efficiency dividend. Apart from other considerations, it makes no sense to impose an additional efficiency dividend on national collecting institutions which have an obligation to continually grow their national collections.

2008 ACT Election Priorities for Business

Canberra Business Council has released its 2008 Election Priorities for Business document. Visit www.canberra-businesscouncil.com.au to download a copy.

The paper outlines a vision for economic growth which leverages off Canberra's distinctive competitive advantages to develop a sustainable vibrant economy capable of meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of our population.

Canberra's distinctive competitive advantages are:

- Canberra is the seat of the national government which attracts economic activity around interactions with and the provision of services to Government.

- Canberra is the home of national institutions. This provides Canberra with an opportunity to build on this competitive advantage through tourism, conventions and our creative industries.

- Canberra has a cluster of world class tertiary education and research institutions which positions Canberra uniquely for innovation and as a knowledge economy built on the highly qualified human capital our educational institutions are so expert at producing and attracting.

- Canberra has the most highly educated and environmentally conscious population in Australia which, combined with our research and higher education resources, uniquely positions Canberra to lead the country in sustainability, renewable energy and other climate change-related opportunities.

Business Perceptions Survey

The preliminary results of Canberra Business Council's Business Perceptions Survey are coming in as this edition of B2B in Canberra goes to print and what is interesting is that the "economic climate" is not the major concern for business owners/operators.

The biggest areas of concern are:

- HR/people management (recruiting, retaining, people management in general)
- Competing with public service wages and conditions as a private sector business

There are some other very interesting responses coming in to the survey. Full results of the survey will be published in the next edition of B2B in Canberra so it is not too late to have your say.

Upcoming events

AGM and Annual Gala Dinner

September 25 – Annual Gala Dinner

Guest Speaker: Graeme Alford

Australia's "Mr can do" is one of this country's most successful & inspiring businessmen. The consummate example of the man who walked the walk, to talk the talk.

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Federation Ballroom, Hyatt Hotel Canberra

Cost: \$125 Members, \$150 Non Member

\$1100 Table of 10 members,

\$1250 Table of 10 non members

September 3 – Outlook2020

Topic: Sustainable Transport

Guest Speaker: Professor Peter Newman & Ross

Hastings (SunPower GF Pty Ltd)

Time: 12.30pm – 2.00pm

Venue: Manuka Oval, Manuka Circle, Griffith

Cost: \$30 per person

October 14 – Business Seminar – OHS

Guest Speaker: OH&S Commissioner

Mark McCabe

Time: 4.00pm – 6.00pm

Venue: Assembly Room, Hyatt Hotel

Cost: \$35 Members, \$45 Non Members