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The Alexandrina Business Hub

Official Opening

15 September 2020

Industry leaders and the local business community will join the Senator for South Australia Andrew McLachlan CSC to officially open the Business Alexandrina Hub (The Hub) on 15 September 2020.

Strategically located adjoining Centenary Hall in the main street of Goolwa, The Hub will provide businesses a 'front door' to the support they need to build resilience and grow in these challenging times. The Hub and supporting services are multi-faceted ranging from access to industry experts, stronger links to Council, a business network and ability to use professional, shared facilities.

Senator Andrew McLachlan CSC, who will officially open the new facility alongside Alexandrina Council Mayor, Keith Parkes, said the project would support and promote economic development in the region.

"Our regional communities are the backbone of South Australia but continue to face drought conditions and now the effects of the pandemic. The Federal Government provided \$400,000 to this project under the Drought Communities Programme – Extension, which has committed \$301 million to community infrastructure projects over three years.

The construction phase of this project has already supported 15 jobs and will continue to offer employment opportunities into the future to boost the economic prosperity of Alexandrina," he said.

New network members of Alexandrina Business will join dignitaries for the opening, together with The Hub's 'Experts in Residence' and key partners; Regional Development Australia, Tourism Industry Council of South Australia, South Australian Department of Trade and Investment, and Fleurieu Peninsula Tourism.

Alexandrina Council has secured these valuable key partners to deliver advisory services and new resources for our region. Of note is the new partnership and first of its kind in local government with the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia (TicSA). TicSA will support our local tourism operators to capture the new regional wave of visitation. The Department of Trade and Investment will work with Council to assist in developing a pipeline of exporters that will support the growth and prosperity of the region into the future. The other key partnership will provide support with attracting external grant funding and matching business partners through Regional Development Australia (Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island) as the 'Expert in Residence' at The Hub.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes is confident the launch of The Hub will provide much needed support to local businesses.

“This is an excellent outcome for those small businesses affected by recent bushfires and ongoing drought, and highlights our government’s commitment to continue with recovery in light of the COVID-19 impacts,” said Mayor Parkes

“With more than 2,100 businesses across the Alexandrina region employing up to 7,500 people, we need to ensure the right support measures are in place to accelerate recovery and build resilience into their business models.

Glenn Rappenberg, Alexandrina’s Chief Executive Officer also commented that The Hub has come at a crucial time for our region.

‘The Hub will provide unique and new opportunities to learn, grow and take advantage of an exemplary network of like-minded business people. In a region that relies on local businesses to support a range of industries, the launch of the Hub is a conscious initiative of Council to support local business in general,’ he said.

Events in The Hub and across the region kicked off in July, in Goolwa and Strathalbyn. The next workshop will be held at the Strathalbyn Community Oval focused on ‘Smart Digital Marketing and Understanding What My Customers Want’.

Visit the new dedicated website www.businessalexandrina.com.au for more information on what the events can offer your business and importantly, how to become a member of Business Alexandrina.
