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BUSINESS HUNTER WELCOMES POLITICAL CLARITY

Business Hunter congratulates NSW Labor leader Chris Minns and his party colleagues on their election victory and the prospect of achieving a parliamentary majority in the lower house.

NSW Labor's priorities of spending restraint, tackling the issue of affordable housing, promised reforms to payroll tax administration, ensuring no new taxes on business, fixing the state's workers' compensation scheme, establishing specialist skills centres and restoring the Minister for the Hunter role, have clearly resonated with voters.

Business Hunter looks forward to working with the Minns Government to nurture the region's businesses and ensure the Hunter and NSW remains the powerhouse of the nation's economy.

"The new government takes office with businesses and the community facing a multitude of challenges including rising energy costs, ten consecutive interest rate rises, inflation, industrial relations changes and labour shortages, none of which can be shied away from," said Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes.

"It is impossible to understate the importance of the next four years for the Hunter region and the State. We have much to do as energy markets transition, pressure increases to reduce our carbon footprint, worker and skills shortages remain prevalent, and as the economy still seeks to find its footing in a post Covid context all the while navigating the waters of the economic hazards I just noted," Mr Hawes added.

"The asks from the Hunter region of the incoming government are very clear and we look forward to working and collaborating with them to achieve our respective objectives".

"The Hunter has returned a clutch of Labor members, most of whom have been around since 2011 or longer and have a strong fixing on the task ahead for the region. I would really be hoping some of the Hunter based MP's earn ministerial and cabinet positions in the new government to recognise their commitment and give the region a true and substantive voice in the new government", Mr Hawes said.

"We particularly welcome back the prospect of a Minister for the Hunter promised by Labor and note the opportunity and focus that role can bring given the critical and diverse needs and ambition of the region."

Business Hunter would also like to acknowledge the work and record of the outgoing government and the attention the region did receive at times through the last twelve years. The enormity and stress of the task through Covid and the lockdowns is well documented and government efforts at all levels was instrumental in ensuring the survival of many thousands of businesses across the state.

The business community will be forever thankful for this assistance.

We hope the incoming NSW Labor team settles and gets to work quickly. We appreciate some patience and understanding from the electorate and stakeholders will initially be required as the new ministerial offices find their feet.

There is pressure for this to happen quickly and we look forward to playing our part in confronting the challenges this may bring.

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