



Sharon Bird MP
Federal Member for Cunningham

Jennie George MP
Federal Member for Throsby

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

New era for regional development in Illawarra

Expressions of interest have been advertised to be part of the new regional development agency in the Illawarra.

The new structure follows the disbanding of the Illawarra Regional Development Board (IRDB) and Commonwealth Illawarra Area Consultative Committee (IACC).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed last week by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments.

We are pleased that Mr Eddy De Gabriele has been appointed Chair of the new Illawarra Regional Development Australia on an interim basis until all appointments take place for the new organisation. Mr Gary Langton has been appointed Deputy Chair on an interim basis.

Illawarra Regional Development Australia will be fully operational by 1 July 2009.

We look forward to a range of individuals with new fresh ideas putting forward expressions of interest to be involved in the new Illawarra Regional Development Australia.

The new Illawarra Regional Development Australia will cover the local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama.

Expressions of interest close on 27 March 2009. Information packages and nomination forms are available at www.acc.gov.au

Illawarra Regional Development Australia has already been involved in addressing the region's transport infrastructure needs by its submission to Infrastructure Australia to upgrade the Picton Road and support for the Maldon-Dombarton rail link project.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Illawarra Regional Development Australia to address the economic and regional challenges facing our community.

4 March 2009