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J o i n t N e w s R e l e a s e

Illawarra Business Chamber paper on Catalyst Projects

We welcome the release of a paper today by the Illawarra Business Chamber (IBC) titled, *Catalyst Projects: A Business Perspective*.

The IBC paper is a welcome contribution to the debate on the future of economic and regional development in Wollongong and the Illawarra region.

It is good to see that there is recognition within the region's business community that focusing on 'wish lists' serve no-one's interests.

Infrastructure projects, outlined in the IBC paper, do cost a significant amount of money, regardless of whether it is publicly funded, or jointly funded by public and private partnerships.

It is crucial that these infrastructure projects stack up, are cost-effective and have detailed business cases.

We are also very pleased by the strong support for RDA Illawarra expressed in the IBC paper. The IBC is represented on the RDA Illawarra Committee.

The IBC paper has also endorsed the economic stimulus of the Commonwealth Government in the Wollongong and the Illawarra region.

By investing \$474.7 million in the Illawarra during the global financial crisis, the Commonwealth Government helped maintain and support employment opportunities in the region.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with the IBC and RDA Illawarra in promoting economic development, business opportunities and securing more jobs.

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