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KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE INCOMING ALBANESE GOVERNMENT

The region's peak business organisation, Business Illawarra, has congratulated Anthony Albanese on his election as Prime Minister of Australia and outlined five key priorities for the Illawarra's economy to be addressed in the first term of his government.

Executive Director of Business Illawarra, Adam Zarth, extended congratulations to Illawarra MPs Stephen Jones and Alison Byrnes on their electoral success, saying that the local business community looked forward to expanding its positive working relationship with them into the new government.

He also thanked the departing Coalition government for its investments in the region over the last three terms and its efforts to manage the pandemic while supporting businesses.

"In the lead-up to the election we had a highly productive engagement with Mr Albanese, members of his then-shadow cabinet and our local MPs on the issues that matter to our regional economy and local businesses," said Mr Zarth.

"Now that they have formed Australia's new government, there are some key areas we have identified for a close collaboration that will help grow jobs and investment here in the Illawarra."

"A plan to tackle climate change must mean jobs flowing to the Illawarra, and we welcome the focus on a responsible shift to renewables, which will grow our Hydrogen Hub here at Port Kembla, and the production of green steel and local manufacturing of wind turbines and other high value-add steel products."

"Energy affordability and reliability are requirements of every local businesses, and we are looking forward to significant investments in our local electricity grid to facilitate our energy generation future, and to ensure energy prices remain low for all businesses."

"A fresh approach to infrastructure will mean that our region's struggling rail network should get the attention it deserves at a federal level, and we will also be strongly advocating for significant federal investment in the Picton Road Motorway project which is currently in planning."

"Most importantly, we need the skilled workforce to meet the increasingly desperate demands of employers across our region."

"We hope that the Albanese government will place top priority on maximizing migration of working aged people to regions like ours to supply much needed workers to sectors like aged care and hospitality, and on training our locals in the skills we need to grow our priority sectors in renewables, technology, professional services and advanced manufacturing."

"Key to achieving this will be a focus on affordable housing, and we look forward to working with our elected members in the new government on innovative means of achieving this locally."

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About Business Illawarra

Formerly the Illawarra Business Chamber, *Business Illawarra* is the region's peak business organisation; a not-for-profit advocacy group dedicated to the economic development of the Illawarra.