

MEDIA RELEASE



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New Ministers welcomed in Labor / Greens ACT Government: Now time to get down to business

The ACT has a new government, new Ministers, and Industry groups and business groups say now it is time to get down to business and help our economy recover from the most difficult economic times we have faced as a community.

The Canberra Business Chamber, Master Builders Association, Property Council of Australia and Australian Hotels Association have offered their congratulations the new ACT Government and new Ministers, saying that they collectively stand ready to work with the government at this most critical time.

The groups say they that the new Parliamentary Agreement reached by the Labor / Greens alliance can be a solid framework that will support local business, create a more sustainable, liveable city and addressing issues of housing affordability and planning reform.

Canberra Business Chamber CEO Graham Catt said, "We know this has been a challenging year for local businesses and are pleased that the Agreement is focused on job creation, diversifying the economy, and getting through this time together. But the challenges ahead are going to require a willingness to work closely with industry and business if we are going to see a genuine recovery and then economic growth.

"We are particularly pleased to see the inclusion of a Minister for Business today with the appointment of Ms Tara Cheyne to the Cabinet and look forward to working closely with the Minister over the coming weeks and months .

"Over the past 12 months more than 7,000 private sector jobs have been lost, and recovery is going to be far from easy. It is so important that the government quickly focuses on the task at hand," Mr Catt said.

Master Builders ACT CEO Michael Hopkins said "Of particular importance to the local building industry is the focus on economic development and job creation in the Parliamentary Agreement.

"The continuation of the \$4 Billion infrastructure program, construction of light rail stage 2, and building additional public and social housing, will all support jobs for the local construction industry. The ACT is facing unprecedented economic challenges and we need all 25 MLAs united behind Canberra's economic recovery." Mr Hopkins said.

ACT Executive Director of the Property Council of Australia Adina Cirson cited minimising increasing costs to business, housing affordability and planning reform as critical areas the government must be focused on delivering on immediately saying, "We need our government focused on making sure that industry is best placed to lead the economic recovery through growth, and that means sustainable tax settings, getting on with implementing measures to deliver on housing affordability and diversity, and that the planning systems is efficient and well resourced. Without growth we will not have a strong economy, and we can't wait to help the next government achieve that," Ms Cirson said.

Australian Hotels Association General Manager Anthony Brierley said, "The hospitality urgently needs our access to outdoor public space deregulated. It is our only chance to trade viably over summer, unless the 1 person per 4 square metre rule is relaxed. "We look forward to welcoming Mr Rattenbury into the liquor and gaming portfolio, and to demonstrating the resilience of the ACT hospitality industry over the months ahead." Mr Brierley concluded.

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