



Combined Small Business Alliance of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)

PO Box 253, JOONDALUP WA 6919

President: Les Marshall

Vice President: TBA

Secretary/Treasurer: TBA

Chief Executive Officer: Oliver Moon

Administration Secretary/Treasurer: Val South

Phone: 9250 3549

CoSBA WEB SITE: <http://www.cosba.com.au>

Phone: 9306 0155

NEXT MEETING: CoSBA BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2009

Stirling Small Business Centre, 45 Delawney Street, BALCATTA

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Julia Gillard defiant on jobs

THE Rudd Government is forging ahead with its industrial relations and greenhouse policies, rejecting calls for them to be reviewed in the light of the deteriorating jobs outlook. The number of full-time jobs fell by 43,900 last month, extending a four-month decline that has seen the loss of 1 per cent of full-time positions. Businesses are asking employees to cut back on hours rather than lose jobs; however, economists and the Government expect the unemployment rate to jump much higher over coming months, possibly to as much as 7 per cent by the end of the year.

The Government has acknowledged that the employment outlook is deteriorating, blaming the global financial crisis, but Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard yesterday rejected suggestions that government policy was contributing to the downturn. She accused opponents of her changes to workplace relations of "using any argument they can to try to keep Work Choices". "We believe our Fair Work Bill is good for working people, good for employers and good for this nation's future, including the future of its economy," she said.

However, an array of business organisations is putting pressure on the Government to consider the implications of its policies for employment. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Australian*, 16.1.09)

CCI, Buswell reject recession forecast

A prominent Western Australian economist and Treasurer Troy Buswell have both said the state is unlikely to dip into recession in 2011, as projected by economic forecaster Access Economics. In its business outlook report released today, Access Economics has forecast the state to be in the trough of a coming recession by mid-2011, with unemployment to almost double to 5.8 per cent and growth to be -0.9 per cent in the same period.

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Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief economist John Nicolau told WA Business News that people should not panic about the latest figures. "Its not time to get caught up in the hysteria about the views held by commentators, there are going to be different views and that's based on differing evidence," Mr Nicolau said. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Daily Business Alert, 19.1.09)

Rudd mandate 'exceeded' in workplace bill

BUSINESS has accused the Rudd Government of exceeding Labor's election mandate, warning that planned workplace changes could incite industrial instability and lead to a "deeper and more sustained" economic downturn. Employers in the resources sector warned that enhanced union rights contained in Labor's Fair Work Bill risked sparking a new wave of industrial unrest.

And the Australian Industry Group said construction projects would be substantially delayed unless the bill were amended. In submissions to the Senate inquiry into the bill, the Minerals Council of Australia and the AIG said the enhanced union power allowed by the proposed legislation needed to be wound back. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Australian*, 20.1.09)

Facts debunk global warming alarmism

THE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that October in the US was marked by 63 record snowfalls and 115 lowest-ever temperatures. Over the past few years, similar signs of colder than usual weather have been recorded all over the world, causing many people to question the still fashionable, but now long outdated, global warming alarmism. Yet individual weather events or spells, whether warmings or coolings, tell us nothing necessarily about true climate change.

Nonetheless, by coincidence, growing recognition of a threat of climatic cooling is correct, because since the turn of the 21st century all real world, long-term climate indicators have turned downwards. Global atmospheric temperature reached a peak in 1998, has not warmed since 1995 and, has been cooling since 2002. Some people, still under the thrall of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change's disproved projections of warming, seem surprised by this cooling trend, even to the point of denying it.

Yet in spite of this, governments across the world - egged on by irrational, deep Green lobbying - have for years been using their financial muscle and other powers of persuasion to introduce carbon dioxide taxation systems. For example, the federal Labor government recently spent \$13.9million on climate change advertising on prime time television and in national newspapers and magazines.

The present global financial crisis should be inducing politicians not to squander money on non-solutions to non-problems. Yet to support their plans for emissions taxation Western governments, including ours, are still propagating scientifically juvenile greenhouse propaganda underpinned only by circumstantial evidence and GCM computer gamesmanship. Perhaps a reassessment will finally occur when two-metre thick ice develops again on Father Thames at London Bridge, or when cooling causes massive crop failure in the world's granary belts.

Bob Carter is an adjunct professor of geology at James Cook University. (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Australian*, 20.1.09)

Investment allowance

Just prior to Christmas the federal government announced a 10% investment allowance on the purchase of plant and equipment between 13 December 2008 and 30 June 2009. This announcement received very little press coverage for an item that gives an extra 10% tax deduction just for purchasing a piece of plant and equipment within the right period. Attached is an article that summarises the allowance.

WA employers' confidence hits record low

The confidence of Australian employers has slumped to a record low as the global financial crisis continues to buffet firms, a new survey says. A national survey of 7,280 hiring managers said only a net 5.4 per cent would hire more permanent staff in the first quarter of 2009, the Hudson Report Employment Expectations survey released today said.

This was a 19.9 percentage point drop compared with the previous quarter and the lowest reading since the survey began in 2000. Western Australian employers had the biggest fall in confidence, down 27 percentage points, as the economies of China, Korea and India - all big mineral export markets - slowed. But the mining state still had a net 14.6 per cent of bosses hopeful about hiring in the first quarter of 2009.

Hudson Australia/New Zealand chief executive Mark Steyn said that demand from China, Korea and India was slowing quicker than expected was having a significant impact on confidence across all sectors in the state. He said the global financial crisis had made many firms nervous about employing long-term staff, which could be detrimental for a firm's future.

"Many employers have become overawed by the situation as they try to balance the need to hold on to quality staff, with the pressure to improve productivity while at the same time reducing costs," Mr Steyn said. "Smart employers will see the downturn as an opportunity to position their business in a way that will ensure it can weather the current situation but then respond quickly when the market improves." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *WA Business News*, Today's Business Headlines, 20.1.09)

Wage restraint promise from unions comes with IOU

UNIONS have promised wage restraint, including potentially delaying pay rises where companies are struggling, for the next year provided employers seek to protect jobs and deliver bigger rises when the economy recovers.

As the ACTU leadership responded positively to Kevin Rudd's call to rein in pay demands, research released today shows employer confidence in Australia falling to a record low, with the number of businesses intending to reduce staff rising to 17.3 per cent over the past quarter. Unions said yesterday they would pursue "modest" pay increases in line with the inflation rate for the next 12 months but warned against any attempt at a wage freeze, except in exceptional circumstances.

Citing Monday's decision to defer pay rises for 1100 Alcoa workers in a bid to stem job losses, unions said they were prepared to delay negotiated wage increases provided businesses could give strong commitments about job security. ACTU president Sharan Burrow said unions would consider striking three-year enterprise agreements that would compensate workers in the second and third years for the restraint exercised in the first 12 months.

"The centrepiece of the modern economy is collective bargaining and it's got the flexibility as a tool to allow employers and unions to decide what's possible now, what's possible next year, putting job security number one, and where do wages fit in," Ms Burrows said. "It's critical not just to only retain jobs this year but to retain real wages, given that if you take wages out of working people's pockets, then you take demand out of the economy." (SOURCE/EXTRACT: *The Australian*, 21.1.09)

Christmas Trading Hours 2009

Contained in a letter from DOCEP is a proposal by the Retail Traders' Association concerning Christmas Trading Hours 2009. See attachment CORRESPONDENCE .PDF. Affiliates wishing to make comment on the proposal should do so before 9 February 2009.



SBC UPCOMING COURSES

Employment Timebombs Two
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Thriving in Tough Times
Get More Customers NOW!

Most business owners struggle to develop a practical and up-to-date business plan. Why? Because the thought of preparing a traditional Business Plan is simply too overwhelming and time consuming.

However it is essential that you have a plan for your business and this one day workshop can solve that problem for you.

In this hands-on workshop you will learn and apply important business strategy and planning principles such as business planning, SWOT analysis, market positioning and strategies, sustainable competitive advantages and key performance indicators. Most importantly, you will leave the workshop with a completed One Page Business Plan for your business.

Business planning is fundamental to the long term success of your business.

Join us to complete your plan in just one day!

- Establish your business goals;
- Learn how to apply the now-where-how planning process;
- Complete a SWOT analysis and identify the issues that threaten your business;
- Determine your business statement and market positioning;
- Identify which business growth strategy is right for your business;
- Define the key performance indicators critical to your success; and
- Develop a prioritised Business Plan Action List.

This is a hands-on workshop for business owners. You will receive comprehensive workshop materials including the presentation notes, the One Page Business Plan Template, Strategic Audit (SWOT) Questionnaire and Goal Settings Workbook.

This workshop will be delivered by **Anthea Moffat** from Business Fusion. She has in excess of 15 years business and financial management experience and has helped many West Australian business owners to develop more profitable and rewarding businesses. Renowned for her down to earth style and passionate delivery, Anthea will ensure that you get excellent value from attending this workshop.

This program is partially funded by the Australian Government.

Dates: Thursday 29th January, 2009
Venue: Small Business Centre - Stirling, 45 Delawney St, BALCATTWA 6021
Time: 9.00am – 4.00pm
Cost: \$110.00 per person incl GST.
Includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and workbook

Don't miss out!! **Register Now**. Please direct any queries to **Maxine Scott** on 9240 6337. Small Business Centre - Stirling (SBCS), 45 Delawney St, Balcatta WA 6021



SCC Enews 11th December 2008

Membership Drive

Any member who introduces or recruits more than 3 new members to the Swan Chamber of Commerce will receive 1 years free Chamber membership for the following financial year. Remember to put your name next to 'Recruited By' on the application form.

Download the Membership Application Form now...[Membership Application Form 08/09](#)

Small Business Smart Business Training Vouchers

The West Australian Department of Education and Training, offers your business up to a \$200 Small Business Smart Business Training Voucher, to assist you with the cost of training to improve your business management skills. Download the SBSB Application Form..[SBSB Application Form](#)

[2008](#) Swan Chamber of Commerce PO BOX 166 MIDLAND 6936 Ph: 93745000 Fax: 92743369



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There's always more things to do than there is hours in the day for a small business owner. That's where Small Business Solutions® comes in.

The unique Small Business Solutions program is delivered by the West Coast Small Business Training Institute and tailored to your needs.

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For advice on your business issues call 1300 40 60 80 or log onto www.smallbusinessolutions.wa.gov.au and set up an appointment with one of our Business Advisors now.

The West Coast Small Business Training Institute is a Western Australian Government initiative aimed at helping small business.

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