



**SENATOR THE HON KIM CARR**

**MINISTER FOR INNOVATION, INDUSTRY,  
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**

Mr Oliver Moon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Combined Small Business Alliance  
of Western Australia Inc.  
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29 NOV 2011

Dear Mr Moon

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 2011 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, regarding the recent establishment of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Manufacturing. The Prime Minister has asked me, as the Deputy Chair of the Taskforce, to respond on her behalf.

Through the establishment of this high level Taskforce, the Government has reinforced a commitment to the future of Australian manufacturing. The work of this Taskforce will set out a shared vision for the future of the manufacturing sector, including small and medium sized enterprises, and identify a plan for how best to leverage the Government's existing policies and programs to best capture the opportunities arising from the Asian century and respond to its challenges. The Taskforce will also help to catalyse and coordinate the Government's and industry's response to the immediate challenges being faced by the manufacturing sector.

The Gillard Government appreciates the important contribution small businesses make to national prosperity and to supporting jobs. The Government understands that small business owners take a risk in going out on their own and that they work hard to achieve commercial success. The membership of the Taskforce includes leaders from industry, unions, government and the R&D community, representing various sectors across manufacturing. In my view, it is important to strike a balance between obtaining a broad range of views and keeping the Taskforce to a manageable size. I further note that Australian Industry Group has been appointed to the Taskforce and that its membership comprises many small and medium sized businesses.

I will ask the head of the Taskforce Secretariat, Mr Peter Chesworth, to call you to seek your views on Australia's manufacturing future.

The Minister for Small Business, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, also holds a number of events, including two Small Business Forums a year, which are a key consultative mechanism between

the Australian Government and small business. The Forums provide an opportunity for small business operators and their representative organisations to engage with government on a range of issues that are affecting their industry sectors. Minister Sherry hosted his last Small Business Forum in Sydney on Tuesday 26 July 2011.

In addition, Minister Sherry and I host a number of meetings with industry associations throughout the year. These meetings include organisations that primarily represent the views of small businesses.

Officials from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research regularly meet with industry associations and attend various industry consultative forums. The Department brings the information drawn from these many sources to help flesh out the views of small business for government. The Australian Taxation Office, for example, facilitates several key forums with small business and has been a supporter and member of these forums for many years. Information gathered through activities such as these will also be used to inform the work of the Taskforce.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Carr', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kim Carr