

Subject: call to action re Small Business Commissioner

Date: Tuesday, 25 January 2011 4:06 PM

From: Kristine <reception@swanchamber.com.au>

To: Swan Chamber of Commerce <admin@swanchamber.com.au>

Dear Member,

Just prior to Christmas I emailed you with a call to action re the creation of a Small Business Commissioner. I realise this was a busy time for you all, so I am sending this again with a request for you to take just a minute or two of your valuable time and carry out the action outlined in the following message. If we are all serious about making sure the state government gives us a commissioner who has both the power and authority to act in the best interests of our small business community.

Many thanks in anticipation of your cooperation in this call to action.

Sandra.

Creation of a Small Business Commissioner in WA

The WA Government has announced its intention to create a Small Business Commissioner in WA. The recent appointment of a Small Business Minister is further welcome news.

The small business sector has a limited window of opportunity to influence the role of the Commissioner as the legislation to create this position is being drafted now.

The Swan Chamber of Commerce urges you to help us ensure this vital position will be given the necessary powers to provide effective assistance and provide a voice for small business in the development and implementation of government policy and legislation.

What Can I Do?

Meet with your local Liberal/National member NOW – both lower and upper house.

In the Swan area we have:

Hon Alyssa Hayden MLC - Member for East Metropolitan – 9274 8484 -
alyssa.hayden@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon Helen Morton MLC – Member for East Metropolitan – 9452 8311 -
helen.morton@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon Donna Faragher MLC - Member for East Metropolitan –9379 0840 –
donna.faragher@mp.wa.gov.au

Frank Alban MLA – Member for Swan Hills – 9296 7688 –
frank.alban@mp.wa.gov.au

Hon John Day MLA – Member for Kalamunda – 9293 4747 –
john.day@mp.wa.gov.au

What Do I Say?

Government members only:

- Congratulations on your decision to support small business by introducing a Small Business Commissioner and a Small Business Minister.

All members:

- Tell your personal stories relating to the difficulty and hardship small business faces in the current government policy environment. Have you experienced unfair practices, increased compliance costs, kept afloat in face of rising costs and wages, faced unfair or unconscionable practices in negotiating leases or rent reviews, obtained finance, faced discrimination in leasing vs big business, had access to immediate affordable legal representation, been dissatisfied with government policy, laid off staff, or any other example you may have.
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- Ask your member if they could research 4 questions on your behalf in relation to the Small Business Commissioner:
 - Will the Commissioner be an independent statutory officer with powers to intervene in disputes and a right to call for documents or evidence or have other judicial powers?
 - What resources will the Commissioner have to carry out their duties and to research and make policy recommendations to government?
 - Will the Commissioner be responsible for holding the proposed public lease register?
 - Does the member understand that the rising cost of business is forcing

costs up to the consumer and reducing competition?

- Suggest your member contact the Small Business Minister, Hon Simon O'Brien and copy in Liza Harvey MP (parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Small Business) and their local Liberal/National members to raise their questions.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support for this initiative. **Now** is the best time to take this action.

Sandra Wallis
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Swan Chamber of Commerce
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Please note that due to the amount of email traffic I receive each day and the amount of time spent on responding I now check my inbox twice a day, first thing in the morning and mid afternoon. If you wish an immediate response to an issue you may prefer to call me.