

NATIONALS

ANDREW STONER MP
MEMBER FOR OXLEY

MEDIA RELEASE

12 October 2011

SMALL BUSINESS TO HAVE A BIG SAY ON MID NORTH COAST

Small business owners and operators on the Mid North Coast will soon have the opportunity to meet the State's first Small Business Commissioner, Yasmin King as part of her inaugural regional listening tour – *Giving Small Business a Big Say*.

Ms King, who was appointed to the role of Small Business Commissioner earlier this year, said she is looking forward to meeting with some of the State's 650,000 small businesses to hear how she can best advocate on their behalf.

"In order to be an independent voice and advocate for small businesses in this State, I am committed to getting out of Sydney's CBD and visiting both rural and regional towns such as Kempsey to speak directly with small business owners," Ms King said.

"I want to hear about the challenges, the rewards and the highs and lows of running a business on the Mid North Coast.

"While in Kempsey, I want business owners to tell me how I can best represent them and what changes need to be made to ensure their growth in what is a competitive and challenging marketplace."

Ms King will be travelling around NSW from 18 October visiting Kempsey on Monday 31 October 2011 at the Kempsey Golf Club. Events will be hosted by the NSW Business Chamber and all small business owners and operators are welcome to attend. Bookings are essential.

"NSW has some of Australia's most dedicated and dynamic small business operators and it's important that I visit their turf to meet with them and get a better understanding of the variety of issues affecting small businesses in different parts of the State," Ms King said.

Minister for Small Business, Katrina Hodgkinson, wished Ms King well on her travels and said that her regional tour demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to small business.

"The NSW Government is committed to backing small business and we will ensure that happens in the fairest, most equitable business environment.

Deputy Premier, Nationals Leader and Oxley MP, Andrew Stoner, welcomed the Small Business Commissioner's visit saying it was a win for those hoping to change the way small businesses are viewed by Government in NSW.

“I encourage all small business owners to be part of Yasmin’s visit. This is a great opportunity for our businesses to have a say and effect real change in the corridors of Government,” Mr Stoner said.

For more details about the Small Business Commissioner’s regional listening tour - *Giving Small Business a Big Say* – or to book a place, please visit www.smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au or www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au

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