

1 October 2019

## COUNCIL SIGNS CHARTER TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES

Hepburn Shire Council officially signed the Small Business Friendly Charter to support small businesses in the Shire.

The Victoria Small Business Commissioner (VSBC) Judy O'Connell visited Daylesford to sign the agreement with the Mayor, Cr Don Henderson, and CEO Evan King. Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP, also attended on behalf of the Minister for Small Business.

Mayor, Cr Don Henderson, said the Small Business Friendly Charter is designed to provide support for local businesses.

"The charter also allows the VSBC and Council to work together to create a fair and competitive trading environment. We are proud to be amongst the first wave of Victorian Councils to sign the charter," said Cr Don Henderson.

The Hepburn Shire is known for its diverse range of businesses including agriculture, hospitality, retail and tourism. The Charter aligns with Council's commitment to ensure the region continues to be a desirable location for existing and new businesses to operate and thrive.

"We are already working to implement many of the key commitments outlined in the charter, such as the introduction of a more user-friendly permit approvals process for small businesses, prompt payments of invoices and business support," said Cr Don Henderson.

By signing the Charter, the VSBC and Council agree to meet the commitments within 12 months.

- Working with small businesses to manage any impacts from disruptive infrastructure projects
- Supporting the creation of small business networks across Victoria
- Faster permit approvals processes for small business
- Prompt payments to small businesses (within 30 days of issuing an invoice)

- Easy to read, easy to understand information for Victorian small businesses
- Open channels of communication between the VSBC and Local Councils.

The Small Business Commission has promised to advocate on behalf of small businesses with other authorities that undertake major works and to work with councils to develop practical initiatives that benefit small businesses.

It has also promised to work with councils to "develop practical initiatives that benefit small businesses."

"Signing this Charter demonstrates our commitment to support local business," said Cr Don Henderson.

For further information on the Charter contact Council's Economic Development Department on 5321 6122.

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