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Signing of Light Rail contract to bring business opportunities to Canberra Region

Canberra Business Chamber welcomes Tuesday's announcement of the contract signing between the ACT Government and the consortium known as Canberra Metro for construction of Stage 1 of the light rail project.

"We are pleased the signing has occurred, as this means we are now in a position to obtain more detailed information on this significant project and bring into full focus the opportunities for business," Canberra Business Chamber CEO, Robyn Hendry explained.

The Chamber supports opportunities for local businesses in the Canberra Region and believes there are many future investment opportunities arising from the light rail project.

"We welcome the investors in the project to our business community," Ms Hendry said. "We will work with these organisations to ensure we maximize the benefits of light rail and they are aware of the broad range of potential future investment opportunities here in the Canberra Region."

"We are also pleased the Canberra Metro bid confirms that 70 per cent of all elements required to construct the project will be sourced locally. Early indications are very positive that the consortium wants to work with us to ensure the creation of opportunities for local businesses."

"Our role through the Light Rail Business Link Program will be to support local businesses in taking advantage of this investment and we will also work with businesses through this program to mitigate the risk associated with any such large scale infrastructure project."

The Chamber believes the light rail project offers a number of opportunities for the ACT in terms of growing our economy and building capacity.

"Once Stage 1 is complete, we want a significant number of Canberra Region businesses to have additional capabilities that will help them enter new markets and succeed long-term." Robyn Hendry said.

"We are keen to see concerns raised by the construction industry considered further to ensure local businesses benefit from this project. Canberra Business Chamber would be disappointed if the employment arrangements and industrial relations conditions associated with Stage 1 fail to support the employment of Canberra Region businesses or people who live in the ACT. We want to ensure the project results in significant local capacity building."

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