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APPOINTMENT OF BRENDAN SMYTH AS NEW COMMISSIONER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT GOOD FOR BUSINESS

Canberra Business Chamber welcomes today's announcement that the newly created position of Commissioner for International Engagement will be taken up by Brendan Smyth.

"For nearly 20 years, Brendan has been committed to representing the needs of his constituents and the Canberra Region. During that time, he has been a strong supporter of business in the ACT, even holding this portfolio during his tenure," Canberra Business Chamber CEO, Robyn Hendry said.

"Before entering politics, Brendan ran the bookshop at the National Library and was raised with his parents earning their income from a family business. He has lived and breathed the life of a small business owner and understands how important local businesses are to our city and our economy.

"We believe that in his new role as Commissioner, Brendan will be a tireless advocate for business. Over the life of his political career, Brendan has distinguished himself as an ambassador for our region, with a long term outlook and understanding that goes beyond the policies of any one term of Parliament – in Government or Opposition."

The ACT Government established the Commissioner for International Engagement earlier this month as part of its strategy to enhance Canberra's international reputation.

The Commissioner, and the new Office of International Engagement, will help develop a more coordinated approach to the ACT's international relations in order to expand export opportunities for local business, increase visitor numbers, and attract foreign investment.

"We commend the ACT Government for investing further in building international relations to grow exports, diversify the economy and help us build on our many strengths as a region," Ms Hendry said.

"In recent years, the Canberra business community has been increasingly looking outward and exploring trade opportunities. There are a growing number of trade delegations being undertaken and there has been significant growth in exports.

"The Chamber feels strongly that Brendan Smyth is an excellent choice for the first Commissioner for International Engagement. Based on his record, we expect he will be dedicated to seeking out the best opportunities for business and highly committed to further diversifying the ACT economy.

"With the support of local partners and effective resourcing, Brendan has the capacity to make the role of Commissioner for International Engagement integral to the ACT's ongoing development. We look forward to working with him."

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