



SMALL BUSINESS FRIENDLY COUNCILS

Small businesses make a valuable contribution to the NSW economy and are a key driver of economic growth, innovation and regional development across NSW.

Local government has a key role in ensuring a friendly and supportive environment for small businesses to start up and grow in their communities.

NSW Small Business Facts:

- There are more than 710,000 small businesses in NSW, representing around 96 per cent of all NSW businesses.
- Small businesses employ around 1.57 million people, which is around half of the NSW workforce.
- The NSW small business sector pays more than \$47 billion in annual wages and salaries to employees every year.
- NSW small businesses contribute more than \$326 billion to annual sales and service income.
- Over 20,000 new small businesses were created in NSW in 2016, an increase of 3% and Australia's largest increase.

The Small Business Friendly Councils (SBFC) initiative provides NSW Councils with information, initiatives and resources that build capabilities and assist them to support local businesses.

An integral part of SBFC, the Easy to do Business initiative (EtdB) provides Councils with a digital platform and state-wide policy solutions that make it easier for small businesses to start up and grow. EtdB reduces red tape and eliminates forms enabling small businesses to obtain streamlined and faster approvals. It also provides Councils with decision-ready applications and significant efficiency gains. Councils joining EtdB automatically become SBFCs.

The Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner is growing and strengthening the SBFC initiative benefits by working with Councils to develop a range of initiatives including:

- regulatory reform initiatives through the EtdB program, including starting a café, restaurant or small bar, growing a business through policy harmonisation of outdoor dining, fitness, outdoor markets and the agribusiness sector
- case studies that showcase initiatives, informs of best practice and policy, and advises of relevant programs
- fact sheets on key issues and useful resources
- networking group to share information and collaborate on problem-solving
- conferences and workshops for Councils to gain practical advice from industry experts, share their knowledge, to workshop solutions to common business issues
- the SBFC initiative works in partnership with your Council to identify emerging issues and barriers for starting up and growing a small business in NSW.

Councils are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to join the Easy to do Business program free of charge and automatically become a member of the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative.

More than half of NSW Councils have joined the Small Business Friendly Councils initiative since 2014.

Around 60% of small businesses in NSW operate in a Small Business Friendly Council area.

Easy to Do Business has won the 2017 Premier's Award for Creating Jobs in NSW!



For further information:



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