



Monday, 6 March, 2017

Red tape slashed in business boost

Red tape will be slashed and Development Applications fast tracked as part of a new Council initiative to create jobs and boost business investment.

The new plan seeks to pave the way for local businesses to expand and attract visitors to the region.

Open for Business will be backed by workshops in marketing, finance and doing business online to build skills among entrepreneurs.

A promotional program to draw visitors to the region is being developed and surveys undertaken to improve understanding of the needs of local businesses.

CEO City of Marion Adrian Skull said Council was doing all it could to help businesses succeed.

"*Open for Business* puts businesses in the driving seat by removing obstacles and creating opportunities for growth," Mr Skull said.

"Marion is close to the CBD and airport and home to the Tonsley Innovation District, making it ideally placed for investment.

"We are creating a more business friendly environment. Staff from right across the organisation are looking at practical ways to help businesses succeed, including slashing red tape."

Council's payment terms have been reduced from up to 60 days to 30 to improve cash flow, reduce costs and provide certainty for small companies.

Development Applications for businesses are being prioritised and a new process introduced that will see planning and building assessments undertaken simultaneously to reduce wait time.

Support for companies has increased with a joint partnership between Marion and Onkaparinga councils and the Tonsley Small Business Advisory Service.

The advisory service is expanding its reach after delivering more than 600 one-on-one sessions over the past year to help start-ups and new businesses grow.

Patrilli Wines managing director Ines Patrilli said local councils were ideally positioned to support business.

"*Open for Business* has the potential to generate more economic activity and attract companies to the area," Ms Patrilli said.

"Local councils are at the root of the business community and this is an excellent idea that will have a positive impact."

The City of Marion also a dedicated Business Growth and Investment Unit to support local companies.

Contact: Craig Clarke, Unit Manager Communications, City of Marion, 0434 600 637



facebook.com/CityofMarion



twitter.com/CityofMarion



youtube.com/CityofMarion