

20 February 2020

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM FOR STATE'S PEAK BUSINESS GROUP

Highly regarded executive, Lyall Gorman, has been elected the new President of the peak business organisation in NSW, the NSW Business Chamber.

Mr Gorman replaces Nola Watson, who remains on the Board as Immediate Past President.

Brett Manwaring has been elected as Deputy President.

Lyall Gorman is a highly successful business leader with more than 35 years' experience in senior management, project management and administration, and his career has spanned both the public and private sectors. He is currently the CEO of *Evolve Housing*, a leading not-for-profit housing provider based in Western Sydney which provides housing solutions to eligible people on very low to moderate incomes who are unable to access appropriate housing in the private market.

Lyall was previously the CEO of the Manly-Warringah Rugby League Football Club, the Group CEO of the Cronulla Sharks, the founding Executive Chairman and CEO of the Western Sydney Wanderers, the Head of the Hyundai A-League and was the former Executive Director of an ASX listed company specialising in corporate finance, corporate advisory and mergers and acquisitions. He also previously held a senior leadership role with the Association of Independent Schools NSW, where he established a range of values-based education programs and also managed that organisation's Commonwealth Government Capital Grants program.

Lyall holds several non-executive roles and serves as Chairman of the Parramatta Parklands Trust. He also previously served as Advisory Board Chairman of Western Sydney University's Centre for Research.

"I feel incredibly humbled and privileged to be elected to lead this great organisation as it heads into an era of significant transformation," Mr Gorman said.

"An era in which the spotlight has never shone more brightly on the significant contribution business makes to the economy of our nation.

"A time in which the challenges of business have never been more clear or more public, as we confront the full and varied forces of 'Mother Nature' and more recently the impact of the Coronavirus, particularly on tourism, with the fierce resolve and resilience that makes those great people who are the driving force of small and medium businesses the true backbone of our country.

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“It’s also a period in which we, as a nation, could never be prouder of the way we have come together to ensure that our vast business network, both in regional and metropolitan markets, stays strong and has our full support to rebuild and continue to make the contribution that it does to the communities and people across our great State.

“In the coming days and months, a major focus for the NSW Business Chamber will be driving its [Backing the Bush](#) campaign which encourages city based businesses of all sizes to commit to holding a Board, management or staff meeting in a bushfire or drought impacted area of NSW sometime in 2020.

“Since launching this campaign, we have been overwhelmed with the response and we would encourage even more businesses and government agencies to get on board – it’s only through getting visitors into these towns, spending money and keeping people in work that these communities can take the first steps towards their recovery.

“Similarly, it is incumbent upon us, as the leading voice in business advocacy and influence across NSW, and through our national body, the Australian Chamber, to continue to better understand the needs of our member base and to work with Government to ensure that those policies essential to business, and especially small business, are vigorously prosecuted and delivered.

“It’s important that I acknowledge the leadership of the outgoing President, Nola Watson, who has done an outstanding job in leading the organisation through a period of enormous change. She and her predecessors have left an incredible mark on the NSW Business Chamber, and one which I can only strive to emulate.

“I congratulate Brett Manwaring on his election as Deputy President and I look forward to working with him, our fellow Board Directors and our highly capable management team on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead to work with all stakeholders to ensure that business continues to thrive and prosper at all levels across our State and that those pillars that are essential for business to do so, are put in place,” Mr Gorman said.

NSW Business Chamber Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Cartwright, said he was looking forward to continuing his strong working relationship with Mr Gorman.

“Lyall’s track record and career achievements speak for themselves and I couldn’t think of a better person to take the helm from Nola Watson and to lead the Board of Directors and the organization during a period of great transformation,” Mr Cartwright said.