

ACT GREENS ELECTION MEDIA RELEASE

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Greens mean business

The ACT Greens today announced business election commitments totalling over \$2.4 million for development of micro-credit programs, measures to protect local and small business, supermarket competition reforms and improved ACT Government procurement.

The ACT Greens support a robust and sustainable ACT private sector which generates significant and meaningful employment in the region. As the national capital, Canberra has many unique business opportunities which should be enhanced,” said Caroline Le Couteur, ACT Greens business spokesperson.

“Local small business is a vital part of the ACT economy and provides scope for much non-public service employment, innovation, diversity and leading edge enterprises, and we note that small business faces particular financial, administrative and employment challenges.

“The ACT Greens will allocate \$811,000 to continue the successful “Brilliant Idea” micro-credit program for women and provide support for more programs across the Territory.

“The ACT Greens have listened to business and commit to establishing a Business Services Office to become a single point of contact for business in its dealing with Government.

“We commit \$200,000 to further liaison with local small businesses on the need for a Small Business Commissioner and how to give meaningful powers to that position.

“Too often local businesses are simply overlooked, or they are too small to engage in Government procurement processes and we can change that.

The ACT Greens will continue their significant work to improve supermarket competition

especially arising from the Assembly select committee we helped establish.

“The ACT Greens would allocate \$200,000 to revise the Territory Plan and the Supermarket Competition Policy to implement useful committee recommendations to improve the number and variety of supermarkets in the ACT,” said Ms Le Couteur.

The ACT Greens will:

- Allocate an additional \$811,000 to micro-credit programs in the ACT including additional support for Lighthouse for running these programs
- Provide \$738,000 to establish a Business Services Office – a single entry business entry point
- Provide \$200,000 for a cost-benefit analysis of the need for a Small Business Commissioner to provide additional support to the small and local business sector
- Allocate \$100,000 to a ‘connect and collect’ website to improve construction & demolition waste recycling
- Direct \$351,000 to ACT Procurement Solutions to employ a sustainable procurement change agent to provide better training on sustainable procurement and to develop processes better suited to local, micro, small and medium sized businesses
- Commit \$200,000 to implement supermarket competition reforms

The Greens have also previously announced other business support including in excess of \$3.6 million for business promotion in the areas of arts marketing, food production, waste, climate change and tourism.

The full package can be found at: <http://act.greens.org.au/content/business-0>