

QUEANBEYAN AGE COLUMN 26 SEPTEMBER 2008

QBC Appoints new Executive Officer – Queanbeyan Business Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Chris Gibson as its new Executive Officer with responsibility for both QBC and Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centre (VIC) operations.

Chris graduated from Duntroon in 1972 and served 21 years in the regular army before retiring with the rank of Major. Since this time, Chris has also gained a wealth of experience in economic and business development.

In recent years, Chris served as Executive Director of the Tasmanian Industrial Supplies Office (ISO), Major Projects Manager with the Industry Capability Network (ICN) in Canberra and, since March 2005, Manager of Tasmania's South East Region Development Authority.

The latter role included the operation of the local Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) as well as economic development assistance to the three local government municipalities in SE Tasmania.

Chris represented Tasmania on the national organising Committee for Business Club Australia leading up to the Sydney Olympic Games.

Simon Mitchell-Taverner will remain with QBC during Chris's settling in period, whilst Tourist Officer Sandra Bryce and her team will no doubt welcome an extra hand during this busy Floriade/ Queanbeyan in Bloom period!

Federal Small Business Minister to address BEC breakfast - The Hon. Dr. Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy and Minister assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation, will address the next BEC breakfast on Tuesday 7th October. This important event will be held at Airport International Motel, 57-73 Yass Road Queanbeyan from 6.45am to 8.30am.

The BEC Breakfast has been an iconic monthly event in Queanbeyan for the past 17 years and is renowned for both the high quality of speakers and for its networking potential.

Dr. Emerson, who was appointed to the above Ministries in December 2007, holds a Bachelor of Economics (Honours) Degree, University of Sydney, Master of Economics Degree, University of Sydney, and PhD in Economics, The Australian National University.

Professionally Dr Emerson has held senior appointments in the public sector and as an economic adviser. He has also run a small business in a partnership. His previous roles have included:

- Director of Eco Managers, an economic and environmental consulting firm;
- Senior Policy Adviser to Wayne Goss, Premier of Queensland;

- Economic Adviser to the Hon R.J.L. Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia;
- Economic Adviser to Senator the Hon Peter Walsh, Minister for Finance;
- Post Doctoral Fellow, Asean–Australia Economic Relations Project, ANU.

Dr. Emerson, author of 17 publications on mining taxation, mineral processing, benefit-cost analysis, ecologically sustainable development and a vision for Australia's future, has spoken at a previous BEC Networking Breakfast and proved a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

For more information or to book for this event, phone Helena Newman at Capital Region BEC on 6297 3121 or email admin@crbec.com.au.