

5 March 2024

Announcement: Commencement of new Director at Kwinana Industries Council

The Kwinana Industries Council, the peak industry association representing business and industry along the Western Trade Coast, is delighted to announce the appointment of David Harrison as its new Director.

David joined the KIC on 5 March 2024 and replaces Chris Oughton as Director who is stepping down from the role after 17 years.

David brings extensive experience in government relations, public policy, media and communications, and external engagement across the private and public sectors.

David has been a senior leader in the higher education sector for the past 12 years, most recently serving as the Pro Vice Chancellor Communications and Engagement for the University of Notre Dame Australia.

Prior to joining the higher education sector, David was a senior leader with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia responsible for its policy, advocacy and media activities. He started his career as a television reporter for the ABC specialising in state politics.

Kwinana Industries Council President Albert Romano said the Board is delighted to appoint someone with David's experience and expertise to guide the future direction of the organisation.

"The Kwinana Industries Council would not be the industry association it is today if it were not for the leadership, passion and dedication of Chris Oughton who has successfully grown the KIC over the past 17 years. We thank Chris for his tireless efforts in support of local business and industry and wish him all the best for the future," Mr Romano said.

"We are delighted to welcome David Harrison as our new Director and have every confidence that he will continue to ensure that the KIC is a strong, trusted and effective voice for local business and industry with key local and national decision makers and stakeholders."

New KIC Director David Harrison said that the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA) has a 65-year history of contributing to the State's economic development.

Looking ahead to the new demands and expectations of our modern society and changes already taking place in Kwinana, there is much to be excited about in

supporting the sustainable growth plans of local industry and the broader Western Trade Coast area.

“It is with immense pride and excitement that I lead the Kwinana Industries Council, especially the opportunity to work closely with the members of the KIC to support further growth, investment in essential industrial expansions and new ventures, the creation of more high value jobs within the local community, and embracing the opportunities these present for the Western Australian economy.”

“It's an exciting time to be leading the KIC. The economic contribution and strategic importance of the area is poised to rapidly expand over the next decade as a result of the development of the new outer harbour, increased defence spending and activity through AUKUS, and the emergence of new value-adding industries including battery processing and new minerals.

These exciting expansion opportunities make it increasingly important that local operators have a strong and effective voice.”

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