

## New Jobs Policy Statement

Benambra must be prepared to seize the economic opportunities that are emerging in our region, and to harness the jobs of the future. Benambra is home to three of the first commercially operating micro-grids in Australia, and we've had millions of dollars invested in the latest in smart-grid and distributed energy technologies. Benambra is also the manufacturing home of Australia's largest manufacturer of power and distribution transformers, Wilson Transformer Company. We need to take opportunities, like those presented by the clean energy sector, and turn them into a new jobs boom for Benambra.

Benambra must have the training facilities able to supply new business ventures with a skilled workforce. As the leader in micro-grid innovation, our local electrician apprentices need to be able to attend a Grid Connect Design course right here in Wodonga. The Wodonga TAFE has this year been named Victoria's large training provider of the year, and it needs ongoing support to develop training courses targeted at new business opportunities. I want to focus on building Wodonga as a regional centre of excellence in education and training, where we can train, and retrain, our workers for those industries that will form the basis of our future economic growth.

### My Policy

#### **New Business Development Strategy**

Benambra is a key regional economic growth zone. It is connected to major transport corridors, and is the home of world leading commercial initiatives. We need to consolidate our advantage with a strategic plan for economic growth, to ensure we are creating the new jobs that will build a strong economic future for our region. I will consult with community leaders, local experts, local government and other agencies to develop a New Business Development Strategy, including a government investment plan for the development of a New Business Hub, a New Jobs Training Hub, and for the infrastructure required for the development of new industry for Benambra.

*I will work with local industry and local government to prepare a New Business Development Strategy for Benambra. I will work to identify those opportunities with the ability to drive new jobs growth, and develop an investment plan and ensure it receives State and Federal Government funding.*

#### **New Business Hub**

New business incubators or accelerators are mostly located in capital cities, and start-ups in regional areas often lack the necessary support to compete on the national and international stage. We need to ensure that new industry development in Benambra is connected to global business networks, and has access to the funding and expertise it requires.

*I will work to create a New Business Hub for identified strategic priorities, so that priority new business development has access to start-up support.*

#### **New Jobs Training Hub**

# JENNY O'CONNOR

Priority New Business Hubs need to be able to train skilled staff locally. Targeted skills and training programmes will allow new business to expand to make the most of opportunities. They will also train our young people in skilled, highly paid, and local jobs. A New Jobs Training Hub will address skills shortages, help get young people into jobs, and support local workers to retrain and upskill. New Jobs training will ensure that Benambra's workforce is world leading, and that Benambra expands its reputation as a centre of training excellence.

*I will work to create a New Jobs Training Hub, ensuring that there are local training programs that match Benambra's priority focus areas outlined in the New Business development Strategy.*