



## MEDIA RELEASE

11 October 2024

### Wambenger Lodge & Hon. Louise Kingston MLC Business Connections Event

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### CCCI Announces Latest Business Connections Event Co-Hosted by Wambenger Lodge & Hon. Louise Kingston MLC

The Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Collie CCI) is thrilled to announce an exciting addition to our Business Connections series, made possible through funding from Workforce Australia Local Jobs South West in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations. This initiative aims to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration among local businesses and residents.

During the event, 20 attendees, comprising business owners and community leaders, engaged in thoughtful discussions about current challenges and opportunities. The event included a VIP tour of the newly renovated Wambenger Lodge, one of Collie's standout accommodation venues. Originally opened in 1981 as a veterinary clinic, Wambenger Lodge has been beautifully transformed under the stewardship of Dale and Ken Hill Power into a modern, welcoming space. This renovation highlights the potential for tourism and business growth in Collie.

Hon. Louise Kingston MLC, provided insights into her background and interests, as well as an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Members of Parliament. She emphasised the importance of working with local communities and Chambers of Commerce and encouraged attendees to engage with their local MP offices. Her talk stressed how MPs and their staff are there to listen and assist the public in navigating the appropriate channels to ensure their voices are heard.

Hon. Louise Kingston MLC expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to speak, stating:  
*"I had a tour of the lovely Wambenger Lodge and met a number of members, hearing what is happening in and around Collie. I am looking forward to my next visit!"*

Aaron Doig, Area Manager for CommBank, also addressed the group, providing an update on key changes within the bank and responding to questions from attendees. His session offered valuable insights into the banking sector and how these changes could impact local businesses. Additionally, Kate Monaghan from Workforce Australia Local Jobs South West shared important updates and initiatives, further enriching the event with her expertise and resources available to support businesses.



# Collie Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc

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Tara van Beuningen, CEO of Collie CCI, extended her heartfelt thanks to Wambenger Lodge and Hon. Louise Kingston MLC for co-hosting the event and expressed appreciation to the guest speakers for sharing their invaluable insights. She also acknowledged Tailored Grazing for providing the delicious food that contributed to the overall success of the event. Lastly, Tara thanked all attendees for their active participation and contributions.

The Collie CCI remains committed to facilitating future Business Connection events, providing invaluable opportunities for networking and collaboration that contribute to the ongoing growth and prosperity of the Collie community.

We encourage individuals and organisations to join us in future Business Connection events. These gatherings are more than opportunities to learn and network; they are vital contributions to Collie's economic expansion. By participating, you actively engage in the latest developments, establish meaningful connections, and contribute to the collective prosperity of Collie.

For further information or inquiries about this event and other upcoming activities, please contact the Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. via email at [admin@colliechamber.asn.au](mailto:admin@colliechamber.asn.au) or by calling 08 9734 4817.

## **About Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)**

The Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) is a proactive and vibrant organisation dedicated to promoting business excellence, community growth, and economic prosperity in Collie. With a mission to foster a supportive and thriving business ecosystem, CCCI consistently initiates events and programs that empower local businesses and individuals to achieve their full potential.