

Inaugural Business Environment Expo Initiates Platform for Change

Thursday 6 December 2018

Tuesday 4th December marked the inaugural **Business Environment Expo (BEE)**, an initiative that supported the Western Sydney's business community in better managing the environmental impact of its operations. Hosted by Western Sydney University, a global leader in sustainability research, **BEE** was fittingly held at their new five-star green rated Parramatta City Campus in the presence of the Hon Scott Farlow, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier of NSW. In total, more than 160 representatives from Western Sydney's expansive business community attended the expo to collaborate and engage with one another in establishing more effective ways to manage energy, materials, and water in the contemporary business context.

Featuring an impressive speaking panel of industry leaders, policy developers, and researchers within the sustainability sector, a variety of TedX style discussions addressed key environmental threats throughout multiple business sectors whilst also proposing opportunities to initiate long-term, positive change. An incredible opening presentation by **Matthew Ramaley** of **Rawson Group** provided an in-depth analysis of the relationship between sustainability and profitability within the housing market, whilst also outlining strategies that have delivered improvements across the triple-bottom-line of one of Australia's most successful housing companies.

Speakers such as Veolia's **Alexander Kanaar**, The Australia Institute's **Mark Ogge**, and Sydney Water's **Paul Mulley** brought into focus a wealth of opportunities for improvement in relation to water conservation, heat reduction, and food waste that can be adopted by all Australian businesses. Alternatively, **Helen Papathanasiou** and **David Hoffman** outlined several key opportunities for businesses to receive support in implementing green work initiatives from the City of Parramatta Council and NSW Government respectively. The Parramatta Chamber of Commerce would also like to extend a special thank you to **Clr. Andrew Wilson, Lord Mayor of Parramatta**, and **The Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Parliament of NSW, Representing the Premier**, for providing keynote addresses and supporting BEE 2018.

In addition to the discussions and workshopping sessions, **BEE** also presented opportunities for businesses to engage directly with one another through the implementation of Exhibitor Engagement Accelerators throughout the three-and-a-half hour expo. Specifically, this component of the expo brought in a range of businesses specializing in areas such as storm water management, spill response products, renewable energy, lighting and solar power, digitalizing work output, and staffing to directly offer solutions to businesses looking to minimize their carbon footprint.

The Business Environment Expo is an event produced by the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce, an organisation committed to bringing local businesses together to support, educate, and share ideas. The Parramatta Chamber of Commerce would like to extend its gratitude to Major Sponsor, the City of Parramatta Council, and hosts, Western Sydney University for the valued support in delivering the inaugural Business Environment Expo. Additionally, Parramatta Chamber of Commerce would like to acknowledge all the businesses, exhibitors, and speakers who assisted in making the evening the success that it was. Parramatta Chamber of Commerce and the team behind BEE look forward to returning with what will now be an annual initiative in 2019 and building upon the outstanding year that we experienced in 2018.

To access images of the inaugural Business Environment Expo, please click [here](#).

For 2019 sponsorship opportunities, please contact Romina Bousimon on 0418 217 665

For further information, please contact the Parramatta Chamber of Commerce office on 02 9635 0022

