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KEEP THE \$100M INVESTMENT IN THE REGION

The Illawarra Business Chamber (IBC) is urging all recipients of the \$100 million Restart Illawarra fund to keep as many of the jobs from this investment in the Illawarra.

“We congratulate all the recipients of Restart Illawarra, who have worked hard to put together innovative projects that will lead to social and economic benefits across the Illawarra.

“What is important now is retaining as much of the economic benefit from this \$100 million within the Illawarra. We urge all proponents to consider how you can work positively with contractors and suppliers throughout the construction and operational phase to strongly encourage them to source local labour where possible,” said Ms Debra Murphy, CEO Illawarra Business Chamber.

“We all know that we have a higher proportion of people who are unemployed, and once they lose their jobs they stay out of work for longer compared to other regions. This stems from not having enough jobs in the region and having a pool of the workforce with insufficient skills to be competitive in the labour market. This is a rare opportunity to help address both of these challenges,” said Ms Murphy.

Mark Sewell, CEO of Warrigal will be placing emphasis on the use of local workers on their new full service village, comprising of a 128 bed residential care home, 98 community living villas and apartments and community hub for older people at Shell Cove. Warrigal has been awarded \$17 million from Restart Illawarra to contribute to the \$37.8 million project.

“This project will deliver 366 jobs during construction, along with 128 direct care jobs when finished. We are thrilled to be able to provide a range of local job opportunities for construction workers, trades, nurses, carers, physios, cleaners, gardeners, and cooks.”

“Over the past few years Warrigal has invested over \$58 million on expanding services in the region. Our approach has always been to work closely with our lead contractors to ensure local trades are used where possible,” concluded Mark Sewell.

“Over 600 jobs are expected to be created from the construction of the Restart Illawarra projects. The imperative is on project proponents through their tendering process and contract management to ensure that this boost in employment and business activity is retained within the region as much as possible,” concluded Debra Murphy.

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