

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **ILLAWARRA'S INAUGURAL 'LEADERSHIP ILLAWARRA PROGRAM' GRADUATES**

A two day conference will be held on 30 - 31 October at the Novotel Northbeach, Wollongong to celebrate the Leadership Illawarra Program. The conference will see the graduation of 25 emerging leaders from the inaugural program, followed by the induction of the second cohort into the program.

The Leadership Illawarra Program is a two year experiential learning program for the region's emerging leaders. The program brings together individuals from a wide range of businesses and community backgrounds to expand their knowledge on the issues, challenges and opportunities facing the Illawarra region. Through the program, participants have the opportunity to interact with and learn from today's leaders and gain practical experience working on team based projects. These graduates provide a significant milestone for the region. They demonstrate and validate how a local program, strong in providing collaboration and leadership skills, can provide a pathway for our emerging leaders.

The Leadership Illawarra Program was developed by RDA Illawarra in conjunction with the Sydney Business School, University of Wollongong and The Illawarra Connection.

The conference will start at 7.30am on Thursday, 30 October with a breakfast session where the Executive Dean, Professor John Glynn from the University of Wollongong, Eddy De Gabriele, Chair of Regional Development Australia Illawarra and Graham Lancaster, Vice President of The Illawarra Connection will present the graduation certificates to the first cohort.

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The media is invited to capture this historic graduation: Thursday, 30 October - 7.30am Admirals Room, Novotel Northbeach, Wollongong.

Photo opportunities and interviews can be arranged. If unavailable, please contact Leigh Jewiss on 4225 4700 or 0407 636 89 for other media opportunities that will be available during the day.

### **About the Leadership Illawarra Program:**

This 24-month intensive leadership program provides learnings on four core themes - Challenges for the Illawarra, Governance and Ethics, Leadership and Community Engagement/Social Responsibility. Through these learnings, graduates will now be looking to convert their newly found education into supporting, amongst other things, the Illawarra's commercial and not-for-profit ventures. For more information visit [www.leadershipillawarraprogram.com.au](http://www.leadershipillawarraprogram.com.au)