



LUCY WICKS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **ROBERTSON**



MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSINESS DIVERSIFYING ACROSS THE CENTRAL COAST

Life has changed as we know it and many of us have changed the way we live and work as we confront the implications of the Coronavirus. This is not only evident in our personal lives, but also in many of the small business on the Central Coast.

The Federal Government have implemented numerous financial supports to help businesses stay afloat during the pandemic, including the JobKeeper Payment, changes to the instant asset write-off and cashflow assistance.

Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks said, "Over recent weeks, I have spoken to business owners across the Central Coast and it's inspiring to see so many of them taking the initiative to diversify their business and assisting in the production of personal protective equipment."

An encouraging number of Central Coast businesses are stepping up and assisting all levels of government to provide for the increased demand in personal protective equipment (PPE).

Bambi Enterprises, a bedding manufacturing based in West Gosford, has adjusted their normal operations to assist in the production of patient gowns for Australia's frontline healthcare workers.

"After speaking with Peter Witney, who is the Managing Director at Bambi, and discussing ways his business might be able to support the community's efforts to combat the Coronavirus, Bambi now has a contract to manufacture patient gowns for our brave doctors and nurses. This will simultaneously support Australia's healthcare workers and keep a local manufacturer running for at least another 20 weeks."

Additionally, Zibara Clothing are using the same fabric they use to produce t-shirts to create reusable face masks, aiming to stop people from touching their faces.

"Zibara Clothing have been manufacturing uniforms and teamwear products from their factory in Erina for almost 40 years, and now they have been able to adapt their operations and use their materials and machinery to make essential medical supplies for both the health sector and general public."

Distillery Botanica have also diversified their product range, moving away from distilling gin to creating high-quality hand sanitiser called 'Mr Black Hand Sanitiser'.



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“The community response to Distillery Botanica’s new product was remarkable, with people lining up at their Erina distillery as soon as they started selling Mr Black Hand Sanitiser to the community.

“The Coronavirus will take a lot from us as a nation, but we will not let it take our community spirit. The Central Coast residents are strong and have an incredible heart when it comes to assisting their neighbours. We will come out of this virus stronger than ever as a community.”

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