

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – Edition 1, October 2007

Dear Valued Chamber Member and Friend;

I am very proud to be elected to the position of President.

Rick Paul deserves our warmest thanks and appreciation for his leadership and stewardship of the Chamber over the past three years.

In addition, we are indeed fortunate to have Chris Young and his talented and dedicated team with us at the Chamber.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months, particularly at this exciting time in the Northern Territory's economic history. There will be many challenges that we need to face and deal with.

We have immediate issues with which to contend, such anti-social behaviour and shortage of skilled employees and training and development.

The Northern Territory Parliament is debating or has passed a considerable amount of legislation recently that could impact on your business.

For example, there will be established an Environment Protection Authority, which will provide advice on ecologically sustainable development. The normal time limit to bring court actions for damages for personal injury arising out of dust diseases has been abolished. And, among other legislation, Parliament will debate in November the Whistleblower's Bill and the Workplace Health and Safety Bill.

In relation to the latter, certain employers will be required to train a Health & Safety Representative by an accredited provider. The Bill also allows for an authorised union OH&S representative, who will have power to enter a workplace to discuss health and safety issues with workers and to observe work practices at the workplace or to investigate a suspected contravention of the Act involving a member of the employee organization (see Explanatory Statement, Workplace Health and Safety Bill 2007).

In the medium to long term, we will be facing changes in international financial markets that, most likely, will impact on Australia and the Northern Territory. A significant issue that confronts us now and will in all likelihood impact strongly on our children as they enter adulthood is climate change.

More than ever, business needs a strong voice to engage these issues. Your membership of the Chamber strengthens the Chambers ability to advocate for your business. I have every confidence that with your support your Chamber is capable of effectively advocating to maximise our members business success by being your voice in addressing the challenges.

I look forward to working effectively with my fellow directors Tom Ganley, Ben Pace, Andrew Wilson, Bruce Fadelli, Damien Ryan and Paul Toussaint-Jackson, whose talent and achievement is widely recognised.

Once again, I thank you for honouring me to be your President in the coming year.

George Roussos



