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ABRAHAMS CALLS FOR CENTRAL COAST BASED TAFE

The Independent candidate for Robertson and local businessman, David Abrahams, today called for the establishment of a Central Coast based TAFE.

In an unusual development, Abrahams called on all parties to commit to a Central Coast based TAFE as a way to boost industry, private investment and skills development in the region and thereby boost family incomes.

As part of his Smart City Plans Abrahams argues that the region can not expect to be 'Smart' or attract the investments and jobs of the future without a future oriented workforce. A workforce that powers our future industries and further investment. Though we need unity on this, not excuses or party political hand grenades.

"I ran tech businesses on the Central Coast for 15 years and we used to employ graduates from local TAFE courses every year, however after the courses were withdrawn back to Newcastle we lost all contact with graduates and faculties."

The Central Coast has some of the lowest tertiary attainment rates in NSW, one of the reasons for that is we don't have our own tertiary institutions. Yet we are the ninth largest region in Australia.

I think this demonstrates how we have been systematically overlooked by governments of all stripes.

"We are NOT the Hunter or Newcastle. Our industry profile is very different. We need autonomy in the TAFE system to rebuild it after years of cuts from state and federal governments. Though we can't just go back to the past"

Mr Abrahams said, "For far too long we have been an afterthought of the Hunter TAFE system. As TAFE courses have contracted so too our industry opportunities and local employment have contracted".

Mr Abrahams asked, "I think the Central Coast community should expect that politicians can work together for the community and don't need to be at each other's' throats competing, fighting, scoring cheap points on issues like this."

Mr Abrahams argued, "Although TAFE is a State Government issue, federal funds are required to run TAFE and industry engagement successfully. As a Federal Candidate for Robertson I will push this proposal all the way to federal treasury."

"Having a Hunter TAFE sign in Gosford that says "Be Ambitious is a joke. A sad joke on the state of local ambition and political practice, now is the time to change that together", said Mr Abrahams.

A Central Coast TAFE must have a campus on the Woy Woy Peninsula, an area of great demand and an area that has been systematically under resourced in education for decades.

Authorised by David Abrahams, Independent Candidate for Robertson

Comment, clarification: 0450 630 181

