



Restaurant
& Catering

WES HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Who does he meet?

Wes Lambert, the new CEO of the Restaurant and Catering Association, hit the ground running yesterday on his very first day in the job.



Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack with Wes Lambert and Senator McKenzie.

Wes Lambert, who has returned to Australia from overseas, previously served as Executive Director, Secretary and Financial Controller for the well-renowned Pacific Restaurant Group Ltd (Kingsleys, ChopHouse, & Jamie's Italian), Australia's first public-unlisted Full-Service Restaurant Group, from 2007 to 2012, where he was responsible for the restructure and IPO of the Group as well as securing the Master Franchise Agreement for Jamie's Italian in Australia/NZ.

The new CEO attended a function with the Hon. Michael McCormack, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Nationals and Senator Bridget McKenzie, the Nationals Deputy Leader. Both expressed a cautious optimism on the prospects for the Coalition being returned to government this Saturday.

Wes Lambert took the opportunity to discuss the challenging issues and opportunities there are currently facing restaurants, cafes and catering companies. These included the need to ensure that business conditions were financially viable for outlets to remain open on weekends and public holidays. The need for the Commonwealth Government to deliver affordable and reliable power and the overall need for the industry to have access to skilled labour.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that he remained committed to helping small and medium regional businesses, including restaurants and cafes, to invest as they were the future in terms of enabling the regions' to grow and key to providing secure better paying jobs.

Senator McKenzie also spoke of the tax relief that the Federal Government was providing for family businesses which they could then reinvest back in to their operations.

The Deputy Prime Minister concluded that none of the Federal Government's investments would be possible without good fiscal management and reminded those attending that the Coalition was delivering its first budget surplus in 12 years, which is why it was important for them to be returned.

[THE END]