



## **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS FOR BNE Enterprise 2020 AGM**

**14 September 2020**

Good afternoon and welcome to the first eAGM held by BNE Enterprise. Sadly this is not because of a desire to embrace modern technology, but necessary due to the unprecedented circumstances that COVID-19 has brought upon us.

At the last AGM I announced that McCalls' were stepping down as our Secretariat after diligently supporting our inception and first five years of operation. I again would like to acknowledge Peter, Neil, Lachlan and their team for their tremendous efforts and also for their support during the smooth transition to our new support team of Atlas Alliance, Bailiwick Group and K&L Gates. Atlas Alliance is providing secretariat, membership and marketing services; Bailiwick provide accounting and financial support and K&L Gates legal and company secretariat support.

I would like to welcome the new team and on behalf of the Board thank them for their outstanding and professional support.

In the fourth quarter of 2019 we undertook a comprehensive strategic review of the BNE Enterprise brand, membership offering, training and events. The purpose of this review was to formulate a plan to energise the organisation in 2020 and align with the opening of the new Brisbane Airport runway and other exciting developments in the airport precinct. Supported by Doug Pye and the Atlas Alliance team, BNE Enterprise entered our sixth year of operation full of optimism and enthusiasm with a new course to establish stronger ties with Government and industry bodies for our members to engage and develop a platform for growth.

Our first event for 2020 was a Business Breakfast on 4 March featuring Oliver Philpot from BAC and Anne-Maree Moon from Brisbane Marketing. We had hand sanitiser on the tables and noted the pandemic developing in the rest of the world and beginning to have some effect in Australia. Oliver made some observations about the impact of previous viruses: SARS and MERS.

As March progressed and turned into April the pandemic inflicted unforeseen and unprecedented disruption to business and daily life. Functions and events were effectively banned, business disrupted. We consulted our stakeholders to determine how BNE Enterprise could add value, identify information



needed by our members to address the economic impacts of COVID-19. BNE Enterprise established a monthly Lunchtime Webinar Series introducing industry experts in legal services, human resources, communications, economic development, aviation and global export services, to assist our members in identifying solutions and opportunities to pivot and adapt to rapidly changing global market conditions.

We continue to strengthen our relationship with Brisbane Airport Corporation. We have helped raise awareness of Brisbane's New Runway launch and other major projects. In the months following COVID-19 outbreak, we've provided a platform for the organisation to communicate the efforts the Airport is making to help Queensland producers and manufacturers export their produce using air freight. We partnered with Brisbane Economic Development Agency (formerly Brisbane Marketing) and Port of Brisbane to introduce a quarterly Australia TradeCoast webinar series, which have been well received by local, state and federal government agencies, as well as industry bodies, growers and manufacturers across the state.

BNE Enterprise has actively sought out new members across a range of industries both within the Airport community, as well as businesses who seek to strengthen networks and relationships within the Airport catchment.

I am very pleased to report that despite the coronavirus and its impact on business, our membership has continued to grow. We welcome our new members into the BNE Enterprise community and look forward to working with each of you over the coming years as we navigate our way back to economic prosperity.

As most would know we have a wonderful event planned for this coming Friday, a BNE Enterprise Business Breakfast with the Lord Mayor and Brisbane Airport CEO. There are so many reasons to look forward to this event. For its own sake, we have outstanding guests, it will be appropriately COVID-19 safe, be an opportunity to catch up with so many of you in person after so long AND hopefully signal resumption of a more normalised and improving business environment.

As tabled in the Annual Financial Report BNE Enterprise remains in a satisfactory financial position. Not surprisingly our revenue was down significantly, and we reported a small loss of \$1,073. Considering the circumstances, our situation is quite satisfactory and the organisation remains financial and viable.



I would like to thank all Directors and members for their support. Ed Phelan of CV Services is not able to continue as a director due to pressures of work arising from the COVID-19 impact. This vacancy will be filled in the following days in accord with clause 4.6 of the BNE Enterprise constitution, but for now I would like to thank Ed for his invaluable input into BNE Enterprise Board and for his past and ongoing support. Hopefully he will be able to re-join the Board in the future

In my report to the AGM last year I suggested that the coming year, (the one we just lived through) would be the most important year since our inception. It was certainly the most challenging and has left us numerous challenges AND OPPORTUNITIES that we will face with confidence over coming years. I will not invite further difficulties by making any predictions about the next 12 months, but wish you all health, happiness and prosperity.

Rob Hunter  
Chairman