

Media Release – 17 April 2020

BIEDO Keeps Connected with Burnett Inland Business

We can't think of a better way to kick off the day than breakfast with our business community! Of course, with the current COVID-19 safety measures, we have had to get creative with ways to host events other than our traditional face-to-face format.

'Social distancing and other COVID-19 restrictions have meant change for all of us in one way or another,' BIEDO CEO Kristy Frahm said.

'While there are many challenges being faced at present, we are taking every opportunity to also use this time proactively to test and trial changes to the way we do things, including the way we connect and serve our community.'

One such way is a breakfast meeting, hosted using the increasingly popular Zoom videoconferencing platform. Now a weekly event, 'Breakky with BIEDO' is a chance for us to see and hear from our business community and to share information and updates about current assistance measures. Session information is shared via the BIEDO Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/biedocommunity/>), participation is free-of-charge and everyone is welcome to join. Topics raised and discussed this week included the newly released JobKeeper Payment scheme, sole trader support, the Qld Government's Care Army initiative and drought recovery. Next Wednesday we look forward to discussing JobKeeper in more detail, particularly the fall in turnover requirement. It's been great to have representatives from Bundaberg Business Enterprise Centre's Business LEAP program and Rural Financial Counselling Service Southern Queensland join us for 'Breakky with BIEDO' to date and we look forward to having their input again in coming weeks. We are all in this together so the more faces we have around the 'table', the better!

Ag Network quarterly meetings are being taken online as well, with the first trial of what are traditionally face-to-face events being hosted via Zoom next Wednesday 22 April at 12noon. This interactive and informal event is also free of charge for attendees and all are welcome to attend. After registering for this session on the BIEDO website (where there is full event details available) you will receive a link to join - <https://www.biedo.org.au/events-1/ag-network-meeting-online-22nd-april>

As always, we welcome and encourage our business community to keep in touch with us about how they are going as we are here to assist wherever possible. Team BIEDO greatly value feedback and suggestions from those we serve to enable us to continually review and strengthen our activities. We are also committed to working collaboratively with all levels of government and a range of agencies to ensure we have a strong network of support for both town and farm-based business, industry and our region's economy more broadly.

We look forward to seeing members of our Burnett inland business community online for a BIEDO event soon!
Ends.