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Ian Pedersen honoured with prestigious NSW business award

Hunter business identity and regional advocate Ian Pedersen has been recognised with a prestigious regional service award as part of Business NSW's 200th anniversary celebrations.

Mr Pedersen, a life member and past president of Business Hunter, was one of 10 business and community leaders from across New South Wales recognised with a Service to the Region Award for making a lasting contribution through leadership, advocacy and service.

Business NSW established the Service to the Region Awards to celebrate individuals whose impact extends beyond their own organisations, creating opportunities, supporting local businesses and strengthening communities across the state.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said Mr Pedersen's recognition was richly deserved and reflected more than three decades of commitment to the Hunter and the NSW business communities.

"Ian has devoted more than 35 years to serving the Hunter with distinction, generosity and vision," Mr Hawes said.

"His leadership has helped shape some of the most important chapters in our region's recent history.

"Whether it was supporting the Hunter through recovery from the Newcastle earthquake, advocating for the workforce and business community after the closure of the Newcastle Steelworks or championing infrastructure and regional development projects, Ian has always put the region first."

Mr Pedersen served on Business Hunter's board for 17 years, helping guide the organisation and the broader business community through periods of significant change and opportunity. During that period, he was part of the taskforce formed to advise then Prime Minister John Howard on how to manage the impacts of the BHP Steelworks closure on the region.

Beyond Business Hunter, Mr Pedersen has made substantial contributions through leadership roles with Business NSW, Engineers Australia and Regional Development Australia Hunter, of which he is currently Chair.

'It was an unexpected honour to have been recognised by Business NSW for my service to business and the community in the Hunter Region, especially when there are so many other eminent business people in Business Hunter and our region,' Mr Pedersen said.

Mr Pedersen received his award from the Governor of NSW, The Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC at a gala ceremony at Sydney Town Hall last week to mark Business NSW's 200th anniversary. This year is also the 140th anniversary of Business Hunter.

Business NSW President Joseph Carrozzi AM said the award recipients embodied the values that have long defined regional communities across NSW.

"Across NSW, there are people who quietly get on with the job of making their communities stronger," Mr Carrozzi said.

"They create opportunities, support local businesses and bring people together."

Mr Pedersen was recognised alongside recipients from across the state, representing the Hunter, Mid North Coast, Central Coast, Western NSW, Riverina Murray, Northern Rivers, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Western Sydney, Sydney and New England North West regions.

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