

21 May 2025

**Business Hunter calls for support for storm-affected businesses and communities**

Business Hunter has urged the NSW Government to respond quickly and positively to requests from affected Local Government Areas for disaster declaration so community members and businesses can access support.

“The current weather event has been hitting parts of the region hard, and businesses have not been immune to the impacts,” Mr Hawes said.

“We have seen extensive flooding in the Midcoast region and in parts of the Upper Hunter and Port Stephens, among other areas.

“We encourage the government to assess any applications for disaster declarations quickly, given the prolonged rain and deterioration in conditions, so that those affected can seek support.”

Mr Hawes said customers should be mindful of operating restrictions facing many businesses at the moment, due to storm damage, communication issues or staff shortages.

“Many businesses are facing operating challenges, with areas blocked off or complete premises closed. Others are running light on staff as employees can’t get into work or are having to stay home to care for children because of school closures. And we know some areas are having issues with internet and telecommunication networks and access.

“We ask people to show respect and understanding in these circumstances and remember that your support and patronage in the post-storm period will be valuable and appreciated as businesses seek to recoup lost trade.”

Mr Hawes encouraged storm-affected businesses to contact their insurance providers to understand their coverage and keep detailed records of losses or damages for potential claims.

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