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### Albany Business Centre's future secured

A site on Chester Pass Road has been acting as an incubator for small businesses in the Great Southern region for the past 17 years.

In that time it has had more than 110 small businesses go through its doors, helping them create start-up, growth or exit strategies, secure funding, develop business models and grow their online marketing and sales tools.

Now Albany Business Centre has hatched a deal of its own that has delivered it the title to the land it has leased from the City of Albany since its inception.

The business centre is an 18 space business incubator with office, studio and workshop spaces and is also home to the Small Business Centre Great Southern which services the local governments of Albany, Broomehill, Tambellup, Cranbrook, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Plantagenet and Woodanilling.

Established in 1999 as a joint project between the then Town and Shire of Albany and Government agencies to facilitate economic growth through small business development, the business centre has been run and managed by the Albany Enterprise Group.

Its lease agreement with the City of Albany was due for re-negotiation last year but instead, the City offered the Group the chance to buy the land.

A deal was struck and settlement was finalised on Monday, January 18.

Albany Business Centre Manager Vicki Brown said they were thrilled to be able to purchase the site from the City.



*Albany Enterprise Group deputy chairman Jeremy Stewart, Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington, Albany Enterprise Group chairman Dave Rowley and Albany Business Centre manager Vicki Brown.*



“Having ownership of the land we occupy will not only give us security of tenure but allow us to plan for the longer term,” Ms Brown said.

“We will have more flexibility to expand so we can continue to help develop and grow small businesses not only in Albany but across the region.”

City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the business centre provided an invaluable support service to small businesses.

“As a former small business owner I know how tough that sector can be but also how crucial small businesses are to our economy,” Mayor Wellington said.

“Having somewhere where small business owners can go and get advice and support is essential and the centre does a wonderful job, not only in fostering growth in the small business sector but also developing partnerships with organisations and government agencies that deliver positive spin-offs for Albany.”

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