



Kim Houghton

Director

Dr Kim Houghton is a unique mix in Australia – an economist with a passion for small business, and a great communicator.

Kim has a deep interest in small businesses and regional communities, having written a book in 1996 on the importance of small businesses in regional economies called *Jobs in Our Regions: Building on the Small Business Base*. Kim established Strategic Economic Solutions (SES) in 1997 as a vehicle for helping regional communities understand and prosper from economic changes happening around them. SES has undertaken a wide variety of practical and research projects on issues affecting regional economic growth. For example Kim ran a large scale supply chain project in Adelaide in 2009 with Elton Consulting for Enterprise Connect which mapped connections between businesses in three industries important to the study region. In 2005 Kim launched the smallbusinessfutures.com.au website to give small business owners free access to the latest in big business thinking and strategy – with a small business twist. Kim has expertise in creating and running programs that support the growth of micro and home-based businesses including the unique *Springboard Business Development* program. Kim is particularly passionate about the new growth areas in the economy – business services, personal services and 'the experience economy'. In recognition of his expertise in economic development Kim has been appointed Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Canberra's Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis. Prior to establishing SES Kim worked at the Australian National University in Pacific economic relations, and in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Positions held

1997 – current	Director, Strategic Economic Solutions
2013 – current	Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Canberra
2008 – 2010	Associate Director, Elton Consulting
2002 – 2010	Community Development Manager, The Hornery Institute
1996 – 1997	Chief Economist, Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia
1996	Economist, Economic Planning Advisory Commission
1995 – 1996	Economist, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
1990 – 1994	Executive Officer, Australia-Japan Research Centre, Australian National University
1989 – 1990	Graduate Administrative Assistant, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
1985 – 1986	Lecturer, Kobe University (Japan)

- Small business motivational initiatives
- *Springboard* business development program
- *Small Business Futures* workshop series
- Business incubation and commercialisation
- Home-based business analysis and segmentation
- Social enterprise feasibility studies and business planning
- Program evaluation

Current projects

Securing wealth and wellbeing of rural communities – Phase 2, with NIRRA, 2013 +

Namoi CMA resilience indicators – developing and mapping socio-economic resilience measures to complement biophysical resilience measures

Renewable Energy Forum business planning (Hunter and Central West NSW)

Economic and tourism strategic planning for Benalla Rural City

Residential Housing Analysis, Eurobodalla Shire Council

Qualifications

1996	PhD Economics, Australian National University
1983	BSc (Hons) First Class, Geophysics, University of Tasmania
1989	Accredited Community Mediator

Recent projects

Centre for Food Innovation (Tas) feasibility study and business plan for pilot scale food processing facility (2013)

Business regulatory burden case studies, small business advisor to NSW Dept Premier & Cabinet (2013)

Future of business in regional Australia paper for Coombs Policy Forum (2012)

Integrating economic and social sustainability: models for three Murray Darling Communities (with NIRRA and others 2012)

Review of enterprise assistance services in Tasmania, for Tas Dept Economic Development (2102)

Penrith City Hi-Tech Incubator Potential (2012)

Expertise

- Economic impact assessment
- Input-output analysis
- Regional economic analysis
- Supply chain analysis
- Local and regional economic strategic planning
- Employment growth initiatives
- Small business development strategies



Strategic Economic Solutions

Evaluation of Aboriginal Employment Service (with Instinct & Reason) 2012

Evaluation of "Beyond Billabong" employment program (with Instinct & Reason) 2012

Regional economic development opportunities scanning review project (with Elton Consulting) 2012-13

Evaluation Toolkit for WorkCover NSW (2012)

Stakeholder evaluation surveys, WorkCover NSW (2010-11 and 2012)

Moreton Bay Innovation Centre feasibility study for Moreton Bay RDA (2012)

Stakeholder consultations and business plan for Southeast NSW Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (2011-12)

Analysis of strategic influences on a regional economy for Eurobodalla Shire (2011)

Analysis of suitable development sites for Western Sydney Parklands Trust (2011)

RDA Southern Inland Strategic Plan, analysis, consultations and plan preparation (2010)

Economic Development Strategies for regions including Wagga Wagga, Bega Valley, Eurobodalla, Benalla, Ararat, Northern Grampians, Upper Lachlan, Young Shire, Cooma-Monaro Shire, Southeast NSW and Capital Region (2002-2012)

Agri-food sector cluster strengthening in Young and surrounding shires (2010)

Business support centre feasibility assessment for Sunshine Coast Regional Council (2009)

Publications

"Assessing Adaptability in Regional Economies" (with Thomas Fell) in *Rural Futures*, Dr Anthony Hogan and Michelle Young, Eds (forthcoming)

Characteristics of economic sustainability in regional Australia, Visioning Australia's Future, Discussion Paper, HC Coombs Policy Forum 2012

"Pragmatic approaches to evaluating small business policies and programs", with Thomas Fell, in *Government, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Development: Policies, Tools and Challenges*, Robert Blackburn and Michael Schaper (Eds), Gower Publishing, UK, 2012

Drought Impacts Beyond the Farm Gate: Two Regional Case Studies, published by Department of Transport and Regional Services, April 2005

Women in Business in Rural and Remote Australia: Growing Regional Economies (with Peter Strong), report for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, September 2004

Business Operators Still at School (with Peter Strong), report for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, August 2004

Incubation Works: Case Studies of Australian Small Business Incubators and their Impact, prepared for the Australia New Zealand Association of Business

Incubators and published by Department of Industry, Science and Tourism, August 2004.

"Challenges Facing China's Small Private Enterprises: Key Findings from a Survey of Entrepreneurship and Small Private Enterprises in Qingdao (Shandong Province) and Harbin (Heilongjiang Province)", with Ian Davies in *China, New Engine of World Growth*, Ross Garnaut and Ligang Song (Eds), Asia Pacific Press, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 2003

Home-based Business in Two Australian Regions: Assessing Characteristics and Implementing Strategies for Accelerating Growth, with Elaine Slater, paper presented at Australia and New Zealand Regional Science Association Conference Hobart, Australia, 2000 20p.

Back Yarders and Front Runners: Home-based business in Two Australian Regions (written for CREEDA Projects, 2000.

Jobs in Our Regions: Building the Small Business Base (1997) published through Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia, Canberra, Australia, November 1997, 106p.

"Building the employment base: small business issues in regional Australia" (with Robert Bastian), *Proceedings, Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand 1997 Annual Conference*, September 1997, pp 43-64.

"Seduction by Numbers", *Economics Insight, Australian National University (ANU) Reporter*, 13 May 1992.

Contact

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