



**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
QUEENSLAND SUBMISSION**

Review of climate change policies
Discussion paper submission

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND

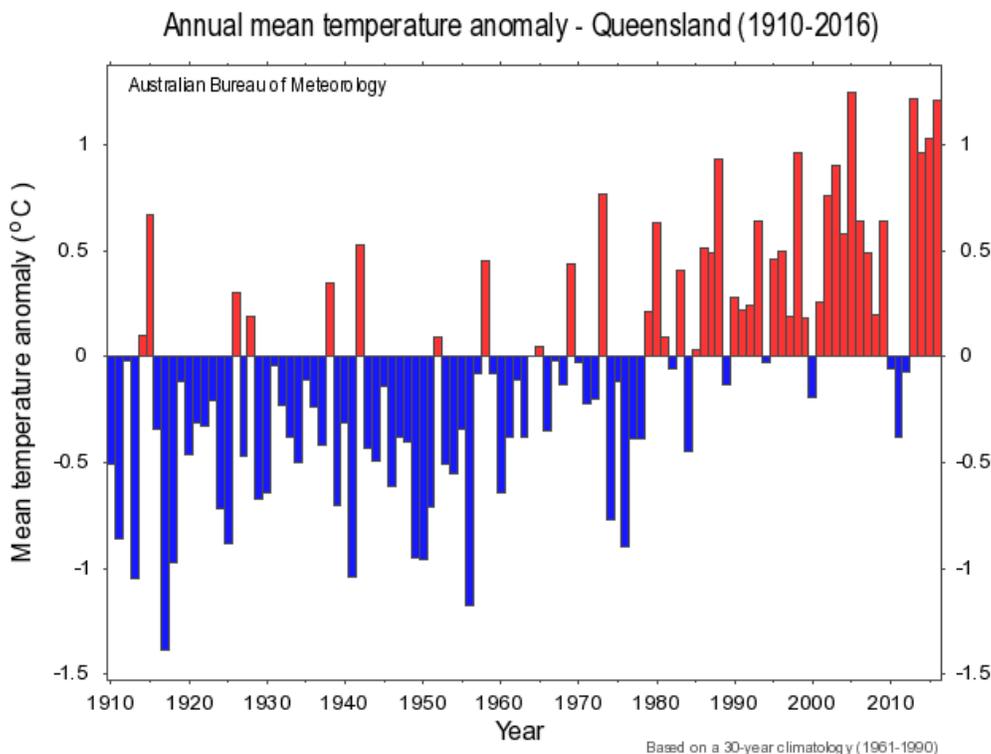
5 May 2017

Introduction

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) makes this submission in response to the Review of climate change policies Discussion Paper (the Discussion Paper) released in March 2017.
2. CCIQ is Queensland’s peak industry representative organisation for small and medium businesses. We represent over 25,000 businesses on local, state, and federal issues that matter to them.
3. This submission is to be read in conjunction with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) submission. CCIQ supports the position as presented in their submission.
4. In addition to supporting the points raised by ACCI, CCIQ would further wish to highlight the following points, which are of importance to our members.

Regional

5. Climate change is having an extreme impact on regional Queensland. Queensland is increasingly experiencing ‘extreme’ weather events due to rising temperatures. Since 1950, the increase of greenhouse gases had a significant effect on global warming. In the past five years, temperatures have consistently been almost one degree Celsius above the mean temperature, as set by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.



6. With increasing temperatures comes increased energy demand which is already compounded by a growing population. Increased air-conditioner use has increased peak energy demand. The possibility of line outages and blackouts has also increased. If the average temperature increases by two degrees Celsius, peak demand has been shown to increase by four per cent in Brisbane.
7. Queensland is also exposed to severe weather events in the form of cyclones and droughts. In the past decade, Queensland alone has experienced four category four to five cyclones, devastating industry and disrupting electricity supply for up to weeks at a time.
8. Due to extreme weather events, regional Queensland would welcome initiatives that will positively effect climate change.
9. Opportunities for jobs and infrastructure would be investment in solar projects in regional areas to boost local economies while lowering electricity generation emissions and in the long run put downward pressure on electricity prices.

Small Business

10. 97 per cent of all businesses in Queensland are small businesses. They are a key employer, and employ 43 per cent of the private sector and contribute to the Queensland and Australian economy.
11. CCIQ supports education initiatives that will assist small businesses in learning about how to use energy more efficiently to reduce emissions and costs.
12. Currently CCIQ is the provider for the state based program, ecoBiz. This program is aimed at reducing businesses electricity, water and waste costs. The program provides one on one coaching, worksite audits, webinars and benchmarking.
13. Support programs that provide tools for small businesses to reduce their emissions, waste and costs at a local level will provide global impacts. CCIQ believes that any approach to climate change policy should provide an education element for small businesses to benefit the economy and environment.
14. Small businesses should also have access to grants and rebates to 'go green'. CCIQ believes a barrier for small businesses to reduce their emissions is the initial capital expenditure required to implement emissions and cost reducing initiatives.
15. CCIQ encourages the climate change policy to incorporate financial support in the form of grants, rebates and/or tax deductions for emission reducing investment.