The 31 January 2015 State election will determine not only the next Premier and State Government, but also indirectly the course of our state economy and business conditions over the coming three years.

Over the last three years our members have relied on CCIQ to provide them with knowledge, insights and unbiased opinion on Government and Opposition policies relating to small and medium business. This election will be no exception. We will objectively analyse the policies released by each major party and how they impact the economic growth and societal prosperity of our proud State.

CCIQ is determined that the issues of concern and importance for Queensland small businesses stay at the forefront of the State Election policy debate. In anticipation of the 2015 State Government Election, CCIQ commissioned its pre-Election Survey in December 2014 with over 1,100 Queensland businesses providing their views on issues of concern and importance for the next State Government.

CCIQ conducted this survey to determine priority issues for small business on key election issues such as fiscal and economic management, business costs, red tape, productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship in Queensland.

Our promise to the Queensland business community, the LNP, the Queensland Labor Party, its members, candidates, and the Queensland community more broadly is to maintain our non-partisan position, assess all policies on their merit to the business community and be steadfastly independent in analysing and encouraging constructive debate in this election.

CCIQ’s Election Survey reveals seven key priorities that all political parties must act upon to improve the business operating environment in Queensland. These are:

1. Stimulating economic growth and job creation
2. Delivering responsible fiscal management and restoration of the State’s AAA credit rating
3. Driving down government costs on business
4. Reducing red tape
5. Enhancing productivity
6. Facilitating business start-ups
7. Innovating in innovation

For general enquiries, please call 1300 731 988.
For the Employer Assistance Line, please call 1300 731 988.
Stimulating economic growth and job creation

When asked about the current economic situation, the majority of Queensland businesses (62 per cent) noted major or critical concern about economic growth and job creation. Simultaneously, about half (48 per cent) of Queensland business budget respondents and the majority of small and medium-sized enterprises have contributed to weaker consumer spending and overall economic activity.

Labor market outcomes are a growing concern for just over 50 per cent of Queensland businesses indicating major or critical concern at the present time with unemployment. This стало is consistent with CCIQ’s recent engagement with members that shows the majority of Queensland businesses expect a worse employment outlook.

The challenge for the next State Government is to deliver policies that stimulate economic growth and create opportunities for the private sector. Policies must also address cost of living pressures to boost consumer sentiment, which will in turn encourage Queensland businesses to invest and employ.

Driving down governance costs on business

The cost of doing business remains a major concern for Queensland businesses, with the overwhelming feedback from CCIQ members pointing to changing industrial relations law and the cost of compliance with industrial relations. It is critical that the next State Government deliver on its commitment to streamline business regulations and provide the foundation for community prosperity.

Every Queenslander, be they business owner, employer or employee has an opportunity to determine the future prosperity of 2015. They should do so on the basis of who they think will best address the concerns raised by Queensland small and medium enterprises.

Reforming taxation

Enhancing innovation

The recent changes to Queensland’s Workers Compensation scheme significantly benefited the business community. However, 38 per cent of Queensland businesses still indicate major or critical concern with workers compensation costs, which reinforce the need for further engagement with workers compensation premiums and business operating costs.

Additionally, the next State Government must ensure actions are taken to address the rising cost of key business inputs, namely electricity, water and transport. Increasing the electricity price leaving over 50 per cent of Queensland businesses indicating a major cost issue will have 65 per cent of Queensland businesses indicating a major cost with the energy.

To what extent are the following issues a cause for concern at the present time?

Enhancing productivity

Queensland businesses recognize that reducing productivity will improve the viability of their operations, allowing them to grow and create opportunities for the next generation of workers. In Queensland, productivity growth is directly linked to private sector investment. In a consequence, this area has received much attention from the Federal Government.

The Queensland business community is seeking a commitment from the next State Government to a productivity agenda that prioritizes the needs of small and medium businesses.

The Victorian Government recently announced its intention to achieve 7 per cent annual productivity growth through investments in education and skills, infrastructure, and innovation. By contrast, CCIQ’s research shows that Queensland businesses are looking for guarantees.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the Strongs Choice propositions to lease assets?

How concerned are you about each of the following matters?

4. Driving down governance costs on business

5. Enhancing productivity

6. Investing in innovation

7. Facilitating business start-ups

Conclusion

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