

2015 WINS FOR BUSINESS

CCIQ HAS A GOAL OF ACHIEVING THE BEST BUSINESS OPERATING ENVIRONMENT IN AUSTRALIA



For general enquiries, please call **1300 731 988**.

For the Employer Assistance Line, please call **1300 731 988**.



Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland
375 Wickham Tce, Spring Hill QLD 4000
Telephone 1300 731 988

As the voice of business, CCIQ is committed to representing the interests of its members and does much to influence government policy and to keep public debate focused on business issues.

DID YOU KNOW THAT CCIQ →



→ CONDUCTS

Queensland's most authoritative business survey – the CCIQ Westpac Survey of Business Conditions



166 LETTERS IN 2015

→ WRITES

to key stakeholders to advance the interests of the Queensland business community



→ GETS

referenced extensively in Parliament by both sides of the House



→ RECEIVES

regular media coverage with **audience reach of over 123 million** people with **1,999 news mentions**, amounting to **\$13.7 million** in advertising value



→ UNDERTAKES

research to **influence policy debate**, including **thought leadership publications** – Federal Budget, State Election, insurance in Far North Queensland, Queensland Shop Trading Hours, Enhancing Queensland's Productivity, The Ideas Advantage: Queensland Business Innovation, Workplace Relations Vision and Action Plan



293 MEETINGS IN 2015

→ MEETS

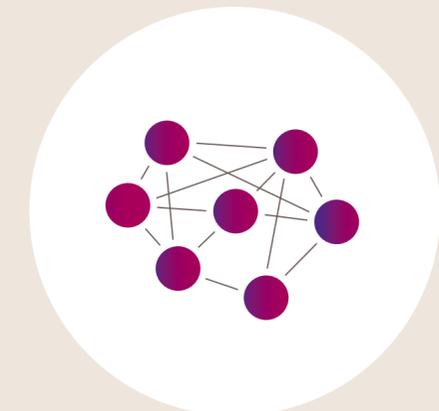
frequently with State Government, opposition members, government agencies, government owned corporations, Reserve Bank of Australia, and corporate Australia to represent the Queensland business community



48 SUBMISSIONS IN 2015

→ LODGES

in depth submissions on priority areas of concern for Queensland business



→ ENGAGES

with local chambers and other industry associations right across Queensland to strengthen the chamber and business movement

2015 WINS FOR BUSINESS

Our advocacy team consistently produce results and deliver positive change on issues that affect Queensland businesses. To see how we can produce a win for you, take a closer look at some of our successful outcomes.



FEDERAL BUDGET

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Urged Federal Government to reduce spending and pay down debt

Championed small business as the backbone of the Australian economy, and called for better measures to assist small enterprises to invest in their business to ensure they continue to grow and employ

Called for upgrades to Bruce Highway, a second Toowoomba Range Crossing, and Gateway North upgrade

OUTCOME

Federal Government committed to credible path back to surplus, with the deficit projected to fall from \$35.1 billion in 2015-16 to \$6.9 billion in 2018-19

Federal Government recognised small business as the backbone of the economy with \$5.5 billion Growing Jobs and Small Business Package

Funding of \$6.7 billion for Bruce Highway, \$1.3 billion for second Toowoomba Range Crossing, and \$1.1 billion for Gateway North upgrade



STATE ELECTION

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Established key election platform for next State Government that championed economic growth, job creation, and responsible fiscal management

Fought for reduced costs on business and reduced red tape

Called for investment in productivity improving measures, innovation, and better facilitation of small business start-up

OUTCOME

Queensland Labor Government committed to a fiscal surplus of \$1.2 billion by 2015-16

Secured an election promise that the Queensland Labor Government would not increase fees, taxes, or charges on business in their first term

Queensland Labor Government to invest \$180 million in Advance Queensland programme, which puts knowledge-based industries at the core of Queensland's economic agenda, heeding calls from CCIQ to invest in innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-up.



TAX REFORM

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Commissioning of ReachTel research on tax reform

Hosted small business roundtables on tax reform

Put the case for comprehensive tax reform to the federal and state governments, with raising and broadening the GST at the core of re-working the tax mix

OUTCOME

CCIQ at the forefront of a national discussion on tax reform, nominating competitive federalism and the removal of inefficient state taxes as core to the debate

CCIQ appointed to the Office of State Revenue's Taxation Consultation Committee



INTEREST RATES

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Hosted roundtables with Reserve Bank of Australia so small business views are considered in monetary policy settings by RBA Board

OUTCOME

Lowest official cash rate in living memory



REGIONALISATION

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Appointed dedicated advocacy representative tasked with overseeing regional engagement and regionally-focused policy development

OUTCOME

CCIQ's profile as an advocate for business elevated in rural and regional Queensland, with Regional Policy Council's leading thought and discussion, advocating for business-friendly conditions, and formulating policy based on regional business priorities



RED TAPE

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Conducted biannual Red Tape Baseline Survey

Launched Red Tape Report: addressing the significant regulatory burden facing Queensland small businesses

Lobbied the State Government to accelerate red tape reduction efforts across all agencies with a focus on reforms that will be most beneficial to small businesses, and continue shifting emphasis from regulator prosecution and enforcement to awareness and education

OUTCOME

CCIQ appointed to the State Government's Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council

State Government made commitments to the small business community that any new regulatory requirements will not impose unnecessary and unintended burdens on Queensland businesses



WORKPLACE RELATIONS

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Participated in the four yearly review of modern awards representing small business needs in the hospitality and retail sectors

Released Workplace Relations Vision and Action Plan detailing a workplace framework that better meets the needs of contemporary workplaces and a modern economy

Worked with the Productivity Commission Secretariat to examine impact of Fair Work system on small business

OUTCOME

Productivity Commission Inquiry into workplace relations reform released a set of draft changes to the Fair Work Act to bring it more in line with small business realities and expectations

CCIQ received extensive reference in the Productivity Commission's report, with over 60 mentions, and its collated data used for modelling

Conducted webinar to representatives from state and federal parliament outlining CCIQ's vision for a balanced framework that fosters greater flexibility, and improves productivity and competitiveness

Appointed to the Queensland State Government's Industrial Relations Reference Group to review Queensland's industrial relations framework



PENALTY RATES

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Advocated for an increase in the scope of the current system to allow for greater flexibility, particularly those businesses that operate seven days a week or outside standard trading hours

Appeared before the Productivity Commission arguing for a change to rigidities in workplaces laws specifically with respect to penalty rates, flexibility, and unfair dismissal

OUTCOME

Productivity Commission made recommendations to bring Sunday penalty rates in line with Saturday rates in the retail and hospitality sectors

Full-bench of the Fair Work Commission reduced the 75 per cent penalty rates for casual restaurant staff who work on Sundays to 50 per cent



WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Lobbied all members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly to block the duplication red tape measures regarding notification requirements in the event of a workplace incident

OUTCOME

Successful in blocking the implementation of unnecessary Work Health and Safety red tape, with the proposed amendment being voted down on the floor of the House. First time Palaszczuk Government defeated on a tabled Bill before the parliament



ANNUAL WAGE REVIEW

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Argued the case for wage restraint and for employers' capacity to pay to be considered in minimum wage determination

OUTCOME

Fair Work Commission decisions showing signs of restraint. The minimum wage increased by 2.5 per cent, amounting to an extra \$16 per week, which is the lowest increase in the national minimum wage since 2009-10. Significantly below the ACTU's \$27 per week claim.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Represented the views of Queensland employers as part of the review of the Workers' Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Advocated for the retention of a 5% common law threshold for workers accessing common law damages; a measure introduced by the previous government off the back of CCIQ advocacy

OUTCOME

Attained commitment from the Queensland Treasurer and the State Government for WorkCover to maintain the average premium rate of \$1.20 per \$100 in wages paid, despite legislative agenda to rollback pro-business reforms of the previous government

Appointed to the Worker's Compensation Reference Group



SKILLS & TRAINING

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Highlighted need for competitive VET sector and stronger employer incentives to hire trainees and apprentices

Advocated for continued contestability of the VET market to ensure VET remains demand-driven and industry-led

Lobbied for skilled migration reform to address labour shortages and mobility issues in regional areas

OUTCOME

CCIQ President appointed to the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration, advising the Federal Minister for Employment on crafting national policy on skilled migration matters

CCIQ will continue to argue for employer-focused VET policies



ELECTRICITY PRICES

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Lobbied extensively for lower electricity prices through extensive representations to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) on network distribution regulatory revenue determination

Advocated for fairer energy costs for small businesses through the network tariff reform process and the Queensland Productivity Commission's review into electricity and solar pricing

Continuing to work alongside the Queensland Council of Social Services (QCOS) to provide a suite of advocacy services for residential and small business energy customers across Queensland

OUTCOME

Passage of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2015, which as a direct result of CCIQ advocacy, high energy-using small business customers are now equipped with free support and advocacy if an issue develops with their electricity retailer

CCIQ appointed to the Minister for Energy's Customer Advisory Committee, and the Queensland Productivity Commission stakeholder reference group



INNOVATION

CCIQ INITIATIVES

Released the Ideas Advantage: Queensland Business Innovation

Conducted extensive research into growing businesses through the adoption of an 'entrepreneurial mindset'

Engaged in executive workshops with Deloitte and the Queensland Government on policies to transition the State into a 'Knowledge Economy'

CCIQ Chief Executive attended the Young Entrepreneurs Trade Mission to Israel led by Assistant Minister for Innovation Wyatt Roy MP

Participated in the Federal Government-led 'Policy Hack' which brought together representatives from industry and government to deliver a suite of policy initiatives aimed at accelerating Australia's innovation culture

OUTCOME

Launched 'Collaborate'; the first accelerator designed to build businesses focused on solving the problems of business