



19 January 2011

Ms Ally Hannon
Executive Officer
QLeave
PO Box 512
Lutwyche QLD 4030

Dear Ms Hannon,

I am writing regarding the Review of the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Scheme. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) is supportive of the review which aims to ensure that the Scheme remains effective in providing equitable portable long service leave arrangements to meet the needs of the contemporary building and construction industry in Queensland.

CCIQ is generally supportive of the vast majority of findings in the Final Report of the QLeave Scheme Review. The current Scheme appears to operate well with feedback received by CCIQ indicating that large changes are not required. In particular, CCIQ is strongly supportive of maintaining the current funding model of a levy imposed on building and construction work rather than a levy on employer payrolls. Changes to this funding model would only add further costs on employers, leading to a negative impact on the building and construction industry.

In relation to the findings in the final report, CCIQ is supportive of:

- Not extending the portable long service leave arrangements to other industries or beyond traditional building and construction industry work at this point in time;
- Holding off on determining whether any thresholds or caps should be raised until the Scheme returns to surplus;
- Not increasing resources in relation to compliance activities considering the high level of compliance already being achieved;
- Maintaining a relatively low operating cost base;
- Exploring the feasibility of establishing an Employer Consultative Committee with a primary aim of further educating industry on roles and responsibilities under the scheme;
- Systematic reviews of the QLeave levy ensuring it is at the lowest level possible while maintaining the viability of the scheme;
- QLeave leading the work being undertaken to improve national coordination of portable long service leave in the building and construction industry, providing there is no negative impact on Queensland businesses and on the scheme.

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.../2



CCIQ would like to express concern about the proposal to extend the scheme to cover union organisers. The Chamber is not supportive of this proposal, as it would open the doors for similar entitlements for other ancillary positions which does not align with the original intent of the legislation. Furthermore, CCIQ believes that unions should be responsible for providing long service leave entitlements to their own employees, as is the case with the vast majority of employers in Queensland.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3842 2279. CCIQ looks forward to working with the State Government to deliver any improvements to the building and construction industry portable long service leave scheme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Behrens', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Nick Behrens
General Manager - Policy