



**EMPLOY QLD**  
**POWER QLD**  
**GROW QLD**



## Our Promise

The Queensland election will determine not only the next Premier of Queensland, but also the course of Queensland's economy at a time of significant transition.

Over the last three years, CCIQ members have relied on CCIQ to provide them with knowledge, insights, and unbiased analysis on Government, Opposition, and minor party policies relating to small and medium businesses. This election will be no exception.

Throughout this election, the Chamber will:

- Objectively analyze the policies released by each major party and how they impact economic growth and societal prosperity of Queensland.
- Ensure the issues of concern and importance for Queensland small businesses stay at the forefront of the State election policy debate.
- Maintain our nonpartisan position, assess all policies on their merit to the business community, and to be steadfastly independent in analyzing and encouraging constructive debate throughout the election period.

## Snapshots of Queensland

### Small Business

Small businesses power economic and regional development across Queensland and are the providers of many families' livelihood – they are the larger businesses of tomorrow



OF ALL BUSINESSES  
IN QUEENSLAND



OF QUEENSLAND'S  
PRIVATE SECTOR  
WORKFORCE

THIS % INCREASES  
TO ALMOST 70%  
WHEN MEDIUM SIZED  
BUSINESSES ARE  
INCLUDED



SMALL BUSINESSES  
IN QUEENSLAND



OF AUSTRALIA'S SMALL  
BUSINESSES CALL  
QUEENSLAND HOME

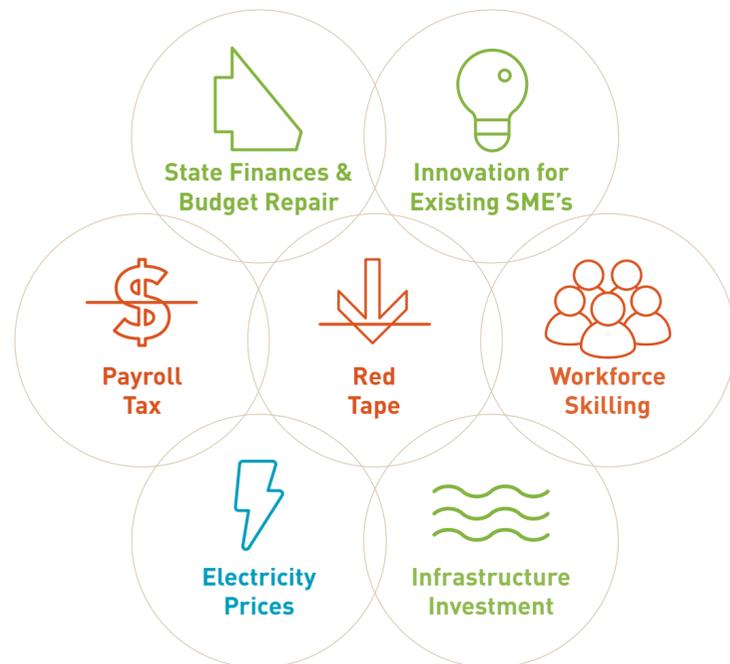


CONTRIBUTE AROUND  
\$100  
BILLION  
QUEENSLAND'S  
GROSS STATE PRODUCT



QUEENSLANDERS  
EMPLOYED BY  
SMALL BUSINESS

## Pain Points for Queensland Small Business



If you want to join our campaign for a better business environment, visit [cciq.com.au/election2017](http://cciq.com.au/election2017).

## Queensland Snapshot

QUEENSLAND'S DIVERSE  
ECONOMY PRODUCED

**\$314  
BILLION**  
WORTH OF OUTPUT  
DURING 2015/16



UNEMPLOYMENT  
**RATE**  
(AS OF SEPTEMBER 2017)



**1300 731 988**  
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# EMPLOY QLD



## Payroll Tax

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Payroll tax is a direct tax on an employer for giving someone a job. Payroll tax is a tax on the fair go. It prevents young people entering the workforce, mature age workers gaining employment later in life, and acts unequivocally as an impediment to business growth.

At CCIQ, we've done the numbers. Our modelling shows that by lifting the payroll tax threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million, tax relief could be offered to approximately 15,500 Queensland businesses. By lifting the payroll tax threshold, these changes will deliver 2000 direct jobs in addition to flow on effects for indirect jobs across Queensland.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Commit to lifting the payroll tax threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million to create more than 2,000 jobs in the private sector.
- Commit to progressively lifting the threshold by increments of \$100,000 to \$2 million over the 5 years following, at which time payroll tax should be completely abolished.
- Commit to not introducing any new taxes or charges for business in Queensland.

## Red Tape

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Red tape costs businesses a projected \$100 billion a year. Over 40% of small business owners are saddled with regulation compliance and spend up to 5 hours a week completing paperwork and understanding their obligations. That is 5 hours not dedicated to growing a business, spending time with family and actively contributing to communities.

Regulation needs to be more flexible as one size does not fit all. Applying old economy regulation to businesses operating in the new economy is detrimental to business vitality and innovation. Red tape must be efficient and necessary; not cumbersome and ineffective.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Set targets within each department to reduce red tape by 25% every year.
- Implement a 'one on, two off' policy (repeal two principle legislative instruments with the introduction of a new one in the same portfolio) that will force a review of existing legislation, drive cultural change across government and reduce the overall stock of legislation.
- Enforce regular reporting by Directors and Ministers of Departments on progress of red tape reduction.
- Make information on regulatory obligations and proposed legislation more open, accessible and easier to understand.
- Reduce delays in approvals by prescribing timeframes for government assessment and implement a system of "implied approval" should such time lapse.
- Tender for share of \$300 million of Federal funds to reduce red tape for small businesses.

## Workforce Skilling

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Businesses are constantly frustrated by lost opportunities when they have difficulty recruiting appropriately skilled staff. Youth unemployment has also been a pressing issue for Queensland, with the youth unemployment rate remaining stubbornly high across Queensland's regions. To address these challenges, Queensland's education and training system will need to keep pace with economic and technological changes, and provide the right teaching structure and courses to allow for continual upskilling. This will be vital given lifelong learning will apply to both low-skilled and high-skilled employees in a 21st century global economy.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- De-risk businesses when they take on apprentices and/ or trainees through providing more attractive incentives, reducing the amount of red tape associated with taking on an apprentice/trainee, and providing more support programs for employers taking on apprentices and trainees.
- Commit to tangible funding incentives to address unemployment, particularly youth unemployment in the regions.
- Re-introduce the Queensland Apprenticeship Pledge.

## Our Better Business Framework for Queensland

# POWER QLD



## Electricity Prices

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Energy prices are a stealth tax on businesses and have ballooned to unsustainable levels. CCIQ has conducted extensive polling on the impact of electricity prices for small business. Our results show that over 170,000 Queensland jobs are at risk if prices are not immediately reduced. Almost 3 in 4 businesses listed a reduction of electricity prices as a high priority for the Queensland State election.

In Queensland, our networks are 100% government owned and are some of the most inefficient in Australia. We know that small businesses place affordability and reliability at the forefront of their priorities for energy policy both in Queensland and nationally, and ongoing policy failure in this space is no longer an option.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Abolish the 50% renewable energy target.
- Set prices for Queensland networks at efficient levels.
- Remove the competitive neutrality charge from networks.
- Abolish the Solar Bonus Scheme post 2020.
- Adopt 5-minute settlement period.
- Introduce regional retail competition.

# GROW QLD



## Infrastructure Investment

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Infrastructure investment is more than building new roads and highways. While transport infrastructure remains a priority, infrastructure investment in all our major services is required. The scope of infrastructure projects needed across Queensland ranges from water, energy, health, recreation and tourism to rail, roads, ports and digital networks. Investment in projects across all these sectors will lead to quality infrastructure that boosts economic activity, thereby lifting our standard of living.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Restore infrastructure spending to 4.25% of Gross State Product.
- Get Queensland's fair share of Federal infrastructure funding.
- Build the vital water infrastructure necessary in Northern Queensland.
- Invest in transport infrastructure to ease congestion in South-East Queensland.
- Improve processes to encourage Market-led proposals and secure Private Public Partnership funding.
- Ensure transparent and rigorous cost-benefit analyses and business cases are developed during planning processes.

## State Finances and Budget Repair

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Failure to maintain fiscal discipline and keep expenditure in check leaves the State in a precarious fiscal position, mortgaging the future and saddling younger generations with debt. As the level of debt grows, so too does the tax burden and the annual interest payments required to service the debt. In 2016-17, annual debt servicing costs were \$1.7 billion – which is equivalent to 3% of total expenditure in the budget. The more the government spends on the debt interest bill, the less money there is available for essential services such as health, education and police or giving the money back to Queenslanders through tax cuts.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Commit to ongoing fiscal operating surpluses.
- A reduction in the public-sector debt burden over the next five years.
- Capping growth of the public service to the rate of population growth.
- Restore the state's credit rating back to AAA.

## Innovation to Drive Small Business Growth

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

With the increasing development of smart technologies, the opportunities for small businesses to innovate and grow are endless. For many small businesses however, digital disruption is viewed as a barrier to their growth, or in some circumstances, facilitating an overwhelming competitive advantage for bigger businesses. At CCIQ, we believe small business innovation programs must be re-orientated away from start-up culture, and developed to support existing small business growth. Small businesses have every opportunity to improve internal and external processes and procedures through innovation, and government policy should both support and encourage such intentions.

### WHAT POLICY COMMITMENTS DO WE WANT FROM CANDIDATES?

- Allow for small business clusters and partnerships for government tenders.
- Develop innovation policy that encompasses all components and industries of the business ecosystem.
- Target innovation strategies towards regional industries.
- Provide infrastructure to allow business to grow and innovate.