



22 February 2011

The Hon Rachel Nolan MP
Minister for Finance and the Arts
GPO Box 2644
Brisbane, QLD 4001

Dear Minister

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister for Finance and the Arts and note with particular interest your new responsibility for regulatory reform. CCIQ welcomes the opportunity to work with across your new portfolio responsibilities.

Regulatory reform is one of the single most important areas of government policy for the Queensland business community. Currently excessive and burdensome regulation is acting as a major constraint on business growth, productivity and investment and is reducing Queensland's competitiveness and attractiveness as a place to do business.

CCIQ has estimated that state-based red tape costs the Queensland economy \$6.5 billion annually and unfortunately this burden is growing at an average rate of 10 per cent per year. Every dollar spent on business compliance is a dollar not spent on business growth and employing Queenslanders and ultimately leads to higher prices and higher cost of living in Queensland.

This is a cost that Queensland businesses and our economy can ill afford, especially given the significant efforts of the recent floods and natural disasters. Accordingly CCIQ believes this is not a time for the Queensland Government to lose focus on the Smart Regulation Reform Agenda and the Chamber would strongly encourage you, as the new Minister with responsibility for regulatory reform, to re-invigorate this agenda and give renewed focus to reducing the cumulative burden of red tape on business and our community.

In 2009 CCIQ released a 'Blueprint for Fighting Queensland's Over-Regulation' which highlighted the significant impact and cost of red tape on Queensland businesses and recommended a '7-Point Action Plan' for regulatory reform. A copy of this Blueprint is enclosed for your information. CCIQ would welcome the opportunity to discuss this Blueprint and highlight key issues in relation to red tape with you in the near future.

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CCIQ again congratulates you on your appointment as Minister for Finance and the Arts and looks forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely

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

Nick Behrens
General Manager, Policy
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland