



Chamber of Commerce
& Industry Queensland

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2 April 2012

The Hon. Bill Shorten MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Shorten,

I am writing in relation to the passing of the Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Amendment Bill 2011 through Parliament.

Although the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) is supportive of increasing the retirement savings of Queensland workers, we believe that employees should have increased responsibility for their own financial futures. Alternatively, raising the superannuation guarantee must be accompanied by a means to help employers fund the mandatory increase.

Queensland businesses widely welcomed your recent comments that superannuation should be regarded as wages, subsequently allowing employers to fund the superannuation increase as part of normal wage rises. During the last week, it has become evident that the ACTU will formally oppose this notion, refusing to accept wage trade-offs for the mandatory superannuation increase.

CCIQ is calling on the Federal Government to direct Fair Work Australia (through amendments to the *Fair Work Act 2009*) for the mandatory superannuation guarantee increase to be offset in future wage increases associated with the annual review of the federal minimum wage, as well as be recognised as a key consideration during the formulation of enterprise bargaining agreements.

CCIQ believes this is essential to ensure the commitment to help employers fund the mandatory superannuation increase is upheld in coming years. Failure to do so will result in significant increases to the cost of employment for businesses, with serious implications for business profitability and employment. CCIQ does not support an increase to the superannuation guarantee levy at the expense of business sustainability and economic growth.

CCIQ looks forward to working with the Federal Government to ensure employers are provided with a means to fund the superannuation increase. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact me on (07) 3842 2279 or email nbehrens@cciq.com.au.

Yours Sincerely

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