

# FEDERAL BUDGET 2018-19

## Small Business Priorities



### FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Our advocacy agenda for the 2018-19 Federal Budget is focused on six key themes:

- 1 Budget Debt and Deficit:** Raising family and business taxes is not the solution to addressing Australia's budget deficit. Action to curtail spending must be the immediate priority for the 2018-19 Federal Budget.
- 2 Tax Reform:** Australia's tax mix has remained relatively unchanged since the 1950's. Coupled with inefficient State taxes, Queensland businesses consider the tax system to be outdated and a brake on economic growth. The business community needs to see leadership on national tax reform to address impending revenue shortfall and to tackle the fiscal deficit.
- 3 Productive Infrastructure:** Projects such as the NBN must be prioritised to deliver long-term benefits to small businesses.
- 4 Workforce Skilling:** An investment in education and training, alongside a robust skilled migration program, will ensure businesses can access the skills our future economy needs.
- 5 Electricity Prices and Energy Policy:** Regulatory complexities on energy must be removed to bring much needed price relief for small business, as well as policy certainty.
- 6 Small Business Growth and Innovation:** Innovation is essential to business survival and growth, and the government needs to pull the right levers for businesses to invest and grow.

 For an in-depth look into our Federal Budget priorities, please visit our website to access our Federal Budget 2018-19 submission.

### A MESSAGE FROM CCIQ



Off the back of the 2017-18 Federal Budget, which only saw a handful of wins for Queensland's SMEs, it is critical the Australian Government reinvigorate their focus on kick-starting the small business economy.

As the peak association for employers across Queensland, we believe the 2018-19 Federal Budget needs to boost the confidence and competitiveness of small businesses across the nation.

CCIQ is also seeking commitments from the government for a more ambitious fiscal strategy that will repair the budget deficit. We are calling for a more credible path to surplus by 2019-2020 – one that doesn't solely rely on wage growth forecasts and bracket creep.

The budget affects us all, and proactive policy is needed to spur business growth to the benefit of employers, employees, and local communities.

**Kate Whittle, General Manager of Advocacy**

### CCIQ'S KEY PRINCIPLES

At CCIQ, we are guided by the following principles which are the key levers for small business prosperity:

- Increase the **digital capacity** of SMEs;
- Ensure access to **procurement** opportunities;
- Reduce business **operating costs**;
- Streamline and reduce **red tape**;
- Simplify the **tax** system;
- Invest in skills needs and **workforce** development; and
- Deliver productive **infrastructure**.

### THE VOICE OF BUSINESS

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) is the peak organisation representing the 426,000 small and medium businesses across Queensland. Our guiding focus is to develop and advocate policies that are in the best interests of Queensland businesses, the Queensland economy, and the Queensland community.

### CONTACT US

Let us know your thoughts on our Federal Budget agenda or about the issues affecting your small business. To contact us, send an email to [kwhittle@cciq.com.au](mailto:kwhittle@cciq.com.au) or for more information on our advocacy work, visit [cciq.com.au](http://cciq.com.au).