

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 380**  
**Asked on 9 March 2006**

MRS SCOTT asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

**QUESTION:**

As he has mentioned previously that there is a review into regulation of the manufacturing industry with a view to reduce red tape in Queensland, what is the latest information?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Member for her question and for her strong support for small business within her electorate. The Beattie Government recognises that small business represents 96.5% of all Queensland businesses and employs around 50% of all private sector workers, and as such, this Government is committed to driving economic growth and innovation, developing business and industry and securing employment opportunities for Queenslanders.

As part of the 2004 Small Business Policy, the Beattie Government announced that it would undertake specific reviews of the manufacturing (including food processing), retail and tourism industries to target the impact of regulations on business.

The manufacturing review involved the release of an Issues Paper in December 2004 to peak industry bodies and manufacturing businesses seeking submissions on regulatory issues impacting on the industry.

The Honourable the Premier announced the public Review of 'Hot Spots' for Regulatory Reform in the Special Fiscal and Economic Statement October 2005. This Review has provided business and the community with an opportunity to have their say in shaping a regulatory environment which is more dynamic and conducive to business in Queensland. It focuses on reducing the regulatory burden for business by identifying hot spots where the burden of regulation is considered excessive and can be simplified or improved.

The Review consultation process has provided the manufacturing industry with the further opportunity to provide submissions on the regulatory hot spots impacting on it.

The support from Queensland business to the reviews has been tremendous, with a total of approximately 1,100 responses received to date. Clearly business in Queensland is keen to have its say in creating a more dynamic business environment, one that continues to support growth. The manufacturing industry has taken up the opportunity to provide further feedback through the Review, with approximately 25% of respondents identifying themselves through the on-line questionnaire as manufacturers.

You will be pleased to know that red tape and regulatory reform have been identified as a significant issue for attention at the national level. Further information on the outcomes of the Council's meeting can be obtained on <http://www.coag.gov.au>.

The submissions which have been made to the Review, as well as the specific reviews into the manufacturing, retail and tourism industries, will contribute to the development of the Queensland reform agenda.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 380  
REPLACES THE PREVIOUS VERSION TABLED ON 10/4/06