

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 386**  
**Asked on 28 March 2006**

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

**QUESTION:**

With reference to his recent release of a small business discussion paper —

How can business owners participate in this consultation?

**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.

The discussion paper *Small Business – a high priority for the Smart State* seeks feedback from small business owners and relevant stakeholders on issues that are perceived as barriers to business success. The purpose of obtaining such feedback is to:

- help ensure current and future Queensland Government services aimed at supporting small business operators remain relevant to their needs;
- allow small business operators, business and industry groups, and those who advise small business, the opportunity to identify innovative policy initiatives to support the growth and development of this sector; and
- identify the firm-level impacts of a range of regulatory, economic, environmental and social factors to assist the Queensland Government influence policy development at all levels of government.

Small business operators can obtain a copy of the discussion paper by contacting their local State Development Centre on 13 26 50, or by downloading a copy from any of the following Queensland Government websites:

- [www.sdi.qld.gov.au/sb](http://www.sdi.qld.gov.au/sb);
- [www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au/sb](http://www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au/sb); and
- [www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au](http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au).

Each of the issues addressed within the discussion paper is also accompanied by a number of questions relating to that particular issue. These questions are not there to restrict how small business operators are to respond, but they are there as a prompt.

I would therefore encourage Queensland small business operators to submit a written response about any issues affecting their business, whether or not these issues have been included in the discussion paper.

Small business operators have until 12 May 2006 to respond to the discussion paper. Written comments from small business operators can be lodged in a number of ways including:

- online: [www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au](http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au)
- e-mail: [smallbusiness@sd.qld.gov.au](mailto:smallbusiness@sd.qld.gov.au)
- post: Office of Small Business  
Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation  
Reply Paid 15168  
CITY EAST QLD 4002