

**Question on Notice
No. 497
Asked on 30 March 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to his small business discussion paper that he spoke to business people about in Rockhampton during the week ended 25 March 2006 —

How can business owners in my electorate provide feedback on this paper?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his strong support for small business within his electorate. The Beattie Government recognises that small business represent 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 recently released *Small Business – a high priority for the Smart State* discussion paper outlines a range of issues impacting on small businesses operating in Queensland.

Business owners can obtain copies of the discussion paper by contacting their local State Development Centre on 13 26 50, or by downloading a copy from either www.sdi.qld.gov.au/sb or www.smartsmallbusiness.qld.gov.au/sb.

The discussion paper outlines a number of issues impacting on small business under a range of key themes:

- business development;
- business environment;
- service delivery to small business; and
- investing in the future.

Under each theme, the discussion paper also identifies:

- what the issue is;
- how that issue affects small business;
- what the Queensland Government is currently doing to support small business in that area; and
- seeking views on the issue.

Small business operators are encouraged to provide written comments on any of the issues covered in the paper. If there are issues impacting on their operations, but are not addressed in the discussion paper, the Queensland Government would also like to receive information about these too.

Business owners can either comment on the whole paper, or comment on one or two issues by completing the lift-out response form at the end of the discussion paper. The deadline for submission of responses to the discussion paper is 12 May 2006.

Written comments from small business operators can be lodged in a number of ways including:

- online: www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au
- e-mail: smallbusiness@sd.qld.gov.au
- post: Office of Small Business
Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation
Reply Paid 15168
CITY EAST QLD 4002
- fax: (07) 3234 0487