

Question on Notice
No. 1593
Asked on 28 October 2009

MR LANGBROEK asked the Premier and Minister for the Arts (MS BLIGH) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Queensland (CCIQ) report titled 'Blueprint for fighting Queensland's over-regulation'—

Will the Premier advise the government's response to this report and what the Premier is doing to rectify what the CCIQ calls 'the most onerous regulatory regime in Australia'?

ANSWER:

I refer the Honourable Member to the Treasurer's letter of 16 October 2009 to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland which outlines the government's response to this report. A copy of this letter is at Attachment A.



Hon Andrew Fraser MP
Member for Mount Coot-tha



**Queensland
Government**

Treasurer of Queensland

QTO-07069

16 OCT 2009

Ms Beatrice Booth
President
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland
Industry House
375 Wickham Terrace
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Beatrice

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2009 enclosing a copy of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland's (CCIA) Blueprint for Fighting Queensland's Overregulation.

The Queensland Government is committed to maintaining a competitive business environment which underpins the strength of the Queensland Government. For the thirteenth consecutive year, Queensland's economy has outpaced the national rate of economic growth.

Regulation is necessary to protect the community and environment, and is an essential part of running a well-functioning economy and society. However, it is important to find an appropriate balance between the benefits and costs of regulation to deliver the best possible outcomes for business, community and government.

The Queensland Government has a long standing commitment to improve Queensland's regulatory environment. The Government is now strengthening this regulatory reform agenda by taking action on two fronts to put in place a regulatory environment that delivers better economic, social and environmental outcomes for Queensland.

At the national level, this Government is working with other Australian jurisdictions to deliver a seamless national economy. Under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Agreement, over 36 reform areas are being targeted to reduce the costs to business in dealing with differing and inconsistent regulation across jurisdictions. The reform areas have been selected to drive maximum benefit for the national economy.

At the state level, the Queensland Government is implementing the Smart Regulation Reform Agenda. This agenda aims to reduce and prevent unnecessary regulatory burden on business, community and government.

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The agenda builds on previous reform work by tackling the quantity of existing regulatory stock and the quality of future regulation simultaneously. The key to this is eliminating unnecessary and excessive regulatory requirements and streamlining remaining areas of legislation where possible, while preserving and strengthening community safeguards and protections with best practice regulation.

These key actions are being progressed through the following initiatives under the Smart Regulation Reform Agenda:

1. Queensland Regulatory Simplification Plan 2009-13. This initiative is focused at reducing unnecessary regulatory burden through a phased program of reviews by all agencies of their stock of existing regulation commencing in 2009. The plan targets an initial reduction of \$150 million per annum in the compliance burden to business and the administrative burden to government by 30 June 2013.
2. An enhanced regulatory development system. This initiative is focused at preventing unnecessary regulatory burden through the introduction of a streamlined, more rigorous and harmonised regulatory development and review system that improves the quality of future legislation and regulation. This system is being progressively implemented through significant reform of existing arrangements, policies and processes, and will be fully implemented as early as possible in 2010.

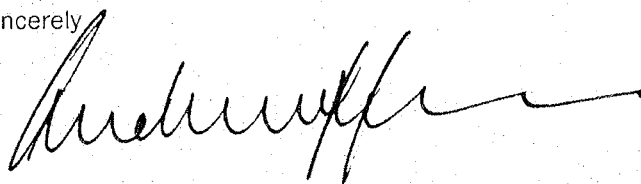
These Queensland Government initiatives are based on regulatory best practice principles, address COAG regulatory reform commitments, and support the making of 'good' regulations.

This is arguably the largest suite of regulatory reforms undertaken in Queensland since the national competition reforms of the early 1990's. The Queensland Office for Regulatory Reform supports me in leading and driving the national and state reform agendas across the Queensland Government. I have asked this Office to contact the CCIQ to discuss further possible reform opportunities.

This program of reform demonstrates the Queensland Government's commitment to maintaining a competitive regulatory environment that supports Queensland business, community and government in driving innovation, productivity and economic growth for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

If you require further information, please contact Ms Sharon Humphreys, Principal Advisor of my office on (07) 3224 6900.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW FRASER
Treasurer
Minister for Employment and Economic Development