CCIWA Pre-budget submission





Keep the costs of doing business low



Ensure a skilled workforce and efficient infrastructure



Ensure regulation helps innovation and investment



Position WA as an attractive place to invest



Reduce the tax burden on business to attract investment to WA

Why Government must act: WA businesses have the heaviest payroll tax burden in the country, and it's making our State an unattractive place to expand.

What Government should do: Increase the payroll tax threshold to \$1.2 million and introduce a 15 per cent rebate for businesses with taxable wages below \$4m. Taper the rebate down to zero for businesses with taxable wages at \$7.5m.



Make our tax system more streamlined

Why Government must act: The red-tape burden of complying with tax obligations in WA puts businesses at a competitive disadvantage and hinders business growth.

What Government should do: Make small changes now, like abolishing transfer duty on the sale of non-land businesses assets.



Stop the growing cost burden of workplace laws

Why Government must act: The costs of employment law are creeping up on WA businesses, reducing their confidence to employ more West Australians — changes to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* alone are estimated to cost \$86 million.

What Government should do: Only make changes that are planned, evidence based, costed, and consulted upon with all stakeholders. Reinvigorate the ThinkSafe Small Business Assistance Program to reduce the implementation costs of WHS reforms.



Reform kindy funding to boost women's workforce participation

Why Government must act: WA women with young children are the least likely in the country to work more than 20 hours a week, and WA parents describe the kindy year as "the year from hell".

What Government should do: Pass on universal access kindy funding to each individual child to enable parents to choose the best childcare option for them and enable WA mothers to work more hours.



Intervene in disputes to alleviate supply chain pressures

Why Government must act: Three in five WA business say that supply change disruptions are presenting a barrier to growth.

What Government should do: Intervene in industrial disputes, like those at the Port of Fremantle, that threaten to harm the WA economy. Identify and address other bottlenecks in our freight transport system.



Allow all businesses to choose their electricity retailer

Why Government must act: Many small and medium businesses continue to be unable to choose their electricity retailer, pushing up their energy costs.

What Government should do: Provide choice and price competition for all businesses by lowering the retail electricity market contestability threshold.



Tie cost recovery from industry to improving regulatory services

Why Government must act: There is growing risk for WA businesses that the Government sees regulators' cost recovery and the delivery of efficient and effective regulatory services as mutually exclusive, not interconnected policy outcomes.

What Government should do: If industry pays for the costs of regulation, regulators must put in place mechanisms to ensure they continually improve processes over time.



Invest in digitising regulatory services

Why Government must act: The slow pace of the WA public sector's digitisation is imposing unnecessary costs on WA businesses and preventing growth.

What Government should do: Provide additional funds into the Digital Capability Fund, and immediately allocate some of this funding toward projects aimed at developing a common interface with businesses across all approval agencies.



Remove trading restrictions for a thriving retail sector

Why Government must act: WA's restrictions on retail trading hours are a textbook example of government red tape unnecessarily holding back the vitality and liveability of our community, while stifling WA jobs in the process.

What Government should do: Allow all shops to open at 8:00 am on Sundays; extend Saturday evening trading; formally enact Public Holiday trading extensions; and remove regulations that stipulate what a business can sell and when they can sell it.



Get WA's trade and investment commissioners back into market

Why Government must act: WA still has no presence overseas, while other States like Victoria have started making a concerted push back into international markets.

What Government should do: Get WA's trade and investment commissioners back in market as soon as possible to capitalise on trade and investment opportunities.



Establish a trade and investment office in the United States

Why Government must act: We are not yet effectively conveying to key markets, such as the United States and Latin America, that WA is a desirable place to host conferences, to study, to live, and to holiday.

What Government should do: Heavily invest in 'brand WA' and destination marketing, and consider Austin, Texas, as a location for a new trade office.



Develop a comprehensive WA investment deal book

Why Government must act: We need to strengthen the value proposition for foreign investment in WA to capitalise on opportunities created by businesses rethinking global supply chains and investment priorities.

What Government should do: Develop an online Investment Portfolio Deal Book – a resource for foreign and interstate investors looking to invest in WA.