

Charter for Small Business

Introduction

1. Small businesses are the cornerstone of South Australia's economy. Supporting them to grow is critical to ensuring that we become a more prosperous state.
2. Greater attention should be paid to the needs of small business in government decision-making. Government programs have tended to focus on supporting corporations and regulation has not been tailored to suit small business.
3. The State Government has undertaken measures to redress some of these deficiencies, by creating the Small Business Commissioner and the Industry Participation Advocate, but there is much more to be done.

Stronger representation for small businesses

4. The State Government will convene regular meetings to allow small businesses to put their views directly to the Premier and relevant ministers, and that participation through electronic means will be possible to connect businesses in regional areas.
5. The State Government will appoint a small business to the Economic Development Board to ensure that small business concerns are heard by the top level of government.

Support for entrepreneurs and new businesses

6. Entrepreneurs and new businesses drive innovation in the rest of our economy. The State Government supports giving them the support that they need to create and grow new businesses.
7. The State Government will invest in entrepreneurs hubs which are led by business to back themselves, as well as in a micro finance fund which supports the growth of smaller businesses.

Ensuring small businesses get their fair share of government contracts

8. The South Australian Government is one of the largest purchasers of services in the economy, with \$3.8 billion in contracts let every year.
9. The Government commits to all reasonable measures that will ensure that South Australian businesses are given the best opportunity to win government work.
10. The State Government is committed to retaining the Industry Participation Advocate and expanding its role by appointing new industry category specialists who will change how government purchases products.
11. These specialists will be given the power to intervene in how government purchasing works so government adopts new innovative solutions proposed by South Australian businesses, as long as they deliver value for money for taxpayers.

Supporting businesses through economic transition

12. Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to the effect of economic shocks like the closure of the automotive manufacturing industry. Many of the businesses in this industry are small to medium enterprises and the negative effect on broader economic activity will hit small business hardest.
13. The State Government will ensure that we provide the support necessary for businesses to transition to new, growing parts of our economy through the investment in Our Jobs Plan.

Reducing costs for small business

14. The State Government has committed to WorkCover reform which will reduce the cost of WorkCover premiums paid by small businesses. The State Government recommits to implementing these reforms.
15. The State Government will also provide another round of targeted payroll assistance to small businesses in 2014-15 which will effectively

halve the payroll tax payable by a small business with a payroll less than \$1 million.

16. The State Government will further cut red tape by undertaking another round of red tape reduction, targeted at cutting the red tape which makes it harder for businesses to grow.

Helping small businesses grow globally

17. South Australian businesses need to grow their businesses around the world in order to take advantage of the export opportunities which exist offshore. Government to government connections are essential to doing business in many high growth economies.

18. The State Government will ensure that small business representatives accompany the Premier and senior ministers on international trade missions which they undertake, particularly to key markets like China, India and South East Asia.