

Wednesday 28 July 2010

ACCI SURVEY – SMALL BUSINESS WANTS BELT TIGHTENING

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, has today released findings of small business owners from its Pre-Election Survey of 1,100 businesses across the nation.

The highest priorities for small business for the next Australian Government are:

- the level of government spending;
- the level of taxation; and
- the level of interest rates or availability of finance.

“These Survey results suggest that an economic programme from either Julia Gillard or Tony Abbott which returns Commonwealth budgets to surplus and minimises wasteful spending, takes pressure off interest rates, provides tax relief, and pressures banks to give business clients a better deal, will be well received by small business owners.”

“The theme coming through this Survey is that small business wants its government to understand and help ease cost pressures, while supporting small business owners to meet their ambitions for growth and entrepreneurship.”

“In small business every dollar counts, and business owners now seem to be applying that principle to government economic management. Concerns about the current level of government spending increased from 16.3% in 2007 to 55% in 2010. While much of this spending supported the economy and small business, the message is that governments must now return to balanced budgets.”

The overall level of taxation is also concerning small business, especially the level of personal income tax and capital gains tax.

Against the background of the Henry Review of taxation, small business was surveyed in relation to their views on what taxation areas needed further reform. Income tax, company tax, and capital gains tax were identified as the most pressing areas.

“The Government's response to the Henry Review provides some small business tax relief, but it is a limited programme that needs to be built on by the next Australian Government. The higher superannuation costs government wants small business employers to pay also need to be funded.”

For further information:

Greg Evans	Director, Economics and Industry Policy	02 6273 2311 / 0407 204 559
Brett Hogan	Director of Communications	03 9668 9950 / 0407 273 884

ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.