

Policy Work In Progress



October 2018

Invigorating business

Title	Date	Synopsis
Survey Quarterly Business Conditions Survey	4 October 2018	As part of our advocacy and commitment to make NSW a better place to do business, the Chamber conducts a quarterly survey on business conditions. The survey provides an honest and comprehensive analysis of economic trends, opportunities and challenges to inform the Chamber's advocacy priorities. Our September 2018 Survey had over 700 respondents and the results were released October 4. Links – Survey Report , Regional Recap , Industry Recap & Media Release Policy Contact: Laurence Redaelli 9458 7913
Energy Teleconference with Essential Energy, Public Interest Advocacy Centre and Energy Consumers Australia	5 October 2018	NSWBC participated in a teleconference to assess potential options to reduce the Government owned regulatory asset base of Essential Energy. One option is to pursue an asset write-down as recommended by a recent Grattan report and referenced by the ACCC Retail Pricing Inquiry Final report. Ultimately it will require a direction from the NSW Government as the owners of Essential Energy to require it to write-down its asset for past inefficient capital expenditure (required by Government licence conditions). NSWBC will need to consider the merits of establishing a policy position on this issue, either in conjunction with other advocates or on its own. Policy Contact: Luke Aitken 9458 7582
Energy Teleconference with the Australian Alliance for Energy Productivity	8 October 2018	NSWBC has some potential alignment with AAEP on the need for a skilled energy workforce and research of barriers/disincentives (capitalisation treatment for taxation purposes, building and planning laws, access to finance etc.) for businesses to deploy renewable energy to reduce their energy costs. Policy Contact: Luke Aitken 9458 7582
Work Youth Transitions Taskforce meeting	11 October 2018	As part of NSW's Curriculum review, the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has established a taskforce to address concerns about young people's transitions out of high school and into further education, training or work, as this has already emerged as one of the key themes from the review. The NSWBC was invited to participate on the taskforce, which will meet a further five times during the Review period. Policy Contact: Megan Petrass 9458 7389
Treatment of psychological claims attributed to 'reasonable management action' Meeting with icare, EML and SIRA	11 October 2018	Since the 2015 workers compensation reforms were implemented, there has been a change to way in which psychological injury claims that can be attributed to 'reasonable management action' are being treated. NSWBC convened a meeting to discuss the adverse impacts this practice is having on the premiums of experience-rated employers and to try to seek a mutually agreeable resolution. Further meetings with SIRA (the regulator) have been scheduled. Policy Contact: Elizabeth Greenwood 9458 7078

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Energy Ausgrid pricing workshop – resubmission of its pricing proposal (tariff structure statement)	18 October 2018	<p>Ausgrid is re-developing its pricing proposal in anticipation of the Australian Energy Regulator finding its original proposal non-compliant because of the lack of a demand charge in its tariff structure and the increase in fixed charges. It is the latter NSWBC is advocating on, in particular ensuring parity of small business and residential in the size of the fixed charge. The next workshop (in November) will focus on small business and presents the best opportunity to argue our position.</p> <p>Policy Contact: : Luke Aitken 9458 7582</p>
NSW Curriculum Review Meeting with Review Chair Professor Geoff Masters AO	18 October 2018	<p>NSWBC met with Review Chair, Professor Geoff Masters AO regarding the NSW Curriculum Review. The meeting was an opportunity to get further insight on the focus of the review following consultations undertaken across NSW. NSWBC will be providing a formal submission to the review in November 2018.</p> <p>Policy Contact: Megan Petrass 9458 7389/ Luke Aitken 9458 7582</p>
Mentally Healthy Workplaces Strategy Launch	22 October 2018	<p>Minister Kean launched the state-wide 'Mentally Healthy Workplaces Strategy'. NSWBC was pleased to see the final strategy include more of a focus on small to medium-sized businesses and tools to help employers build their capability for handling their WHS obligations in this respect.</p> <p>Policy Contact: Elizabeth Greenwood 9458 7078</p>
Western Harbour Meeting with the Dr Julie Grail regarding Business Improvement Districts	23 October 2018	<p>NSWBC participated in a roundtable with key stakeholders around the Western harbour regarding the potential creation of Business Improvement District (BID) for the precinct. A business improvement district (BID) is a defined area within which businesses are required to pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. Leading this discussion was Dr Julie Grail a global expert on the development of BID's who has helped drive their creation in cities in US, Europe and New Zealand. The group has committed to continue discussing the concept and its suitability in addressing some of the key transport and connectivity challenges facing the western harbour.</p> <p>Policy Contact: Luke Aitken 9458 7582</p>

Upcoming

Submission on Outdoor Dining Trial – 23 November 2018

Submission on the Workers Compensation Claims Admin manual – 16 November 2018

Submission to the NSW School Curriculum Review – 30 November 2018