

Road to recovery

TCCI's COVID-19

economic recovery priorities



Sponsorship

The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry would like to thank its exclusive sponsor, Tasplan Super for their support in delivering this policy document.

At Tasplan, we've invested in our infrastructure and people during the pandemic to ensure we can support our members to continue to focus on their retirement.

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Introduction



The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) is a not-for-profit member-based organisation, funded by business, working for business. TCCI's vision is to support Tasmanian businesses to thrive.

TCCI was one of the first chambers of commerce in Australia and was established over 160 years ago. The TCCI is an independent membership organisation that aims to be dynamic leaders in business solutions.

TCCI networks include direct members, regional chamber of commerce members through the Tasmanian Chamber Alliance as well as thousands of businesses engaged through a broad range of programs and services delivered across the state. The network covers all industries and regions within Tasmania and includes businesses of all sizes, from micro through to large business.

Paul Ranson
Chair
Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Three priorities for recovery

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound and far-reaching effect on the Tasmanian community as well as the business community.

Many businesses have shut their doors or have lost most or all of their business; others are being forced to adapt, providing new products and services and moving to remote work environments.

Many businesses have slowly and cautiously reopened, whilst other businesses may never reopen or are scrambling to respond to the current environment. It is vital we turn our attention to building the economy, creating jobs and assisting businesses to re-establish themselves.

The efforts of the state and federal government in stimulating the economy are likely to be the most important efforts since the end of the Second World War.

In order to foster the fastest and best return to a buoyant Tasmanian economy, we need to prioritise the following:

- 1 Supporting businesses to reopen and stay open
- 2 Investing in our people
- 3 Investing in infrastructure



1 Supporting businesses to reopen and stay open

The pathway back requires as much certainty in the regulatory and taxation environment as possible.

Key challenges

Changes to regulation, taxation and other environmental changes are sources of great stress and unnecessary focus for business.

Businesses are 'change fatigued' and in a state of shock from the immediate and unprecedented impacts of the pandemic.

Businesses must engage with more or new consumers in different ways.

Business confidence and certainty has been decimated, they are 'waiting to see' what happens before making decisions.

Priorities

Support for businesses and supply chains impacted by border restrictions.

No new regulation.

No new taxes.

COVID Ready Plans and compliance that support local businesses to operate safely, not stifle them with compliance.

Building on the community commitment to buy and support business for the sake of all Tasmanians.

Extension of the JobKeeper Payment and other stimulus measures specifically for severely affected industries.

A strong and united Government.

Outcomes

Build business confidence to operate in the new 'known' environment.

A shared Tasmanian vision and goal to support our local business community and in turn, the community more broadly.



2 Investing in our people

The pathway back requires a significant investment in building the capability and capacity of our people and our businesses to respond and adapt to the 'new normal' operating environment.

Key challenges

There has been tremendous change to the business operating environment, particularly workforce changes resulting in a need for new skills and knowledge.

Businesses need people with the skills and capability to survive and thrive in the new environment. In order to achieve business growth businesses need the right people at the right time with the right skills.

Businesses only know what they know – they don't necessarily know what skills they require to achieve business growth and how to access these skills.

The training system is complex and difficult to navigate. Understandably most business operators are unfamiliar with the training sector and the vast range of options available to them.

Often training funding applications are led by training provider led programs. These often result in lots of training activity but are not necessarily linked to business growth or sustainability.

There is often a capability gap between knowing what skills the business needs and how to access quality and affordable training solutions.



2 Investing in our people

Priorities

Skills for growth must be the priority – workforce development for businesses to respond to growth opportunities.

Specialist skills advice to assist businesses to identify growth opportunities and associated training and development needs for their workforce—current and future.

Funding of both accredited and non-accredited training programs such as recognised industry programs like mental health first aid.

People with skills to support businesses to respond to the ‘new normal’ operating environment such as improving systems and processes, business planning, diversification, consolidation and enhancing an online presence.

Employer-led government funded training programs linked to a business growth opportunity. Employers need to be supported to seek funding based on their business growth opportunities.

Outcomes

Business is able to develop strategies to respond to the ‘new normal’ (survive and thrive).

Support businesses to shift their thinking around how they have previously done business.

Supports business diversification, expansion of markets and/or online business opportunities.

Supports targeted and relevant individual skill development of employees, whilst bolstering business.

Better return-on-investment on government training spend.



3 Investing in infrastructure

The pathway back requires investment in infrastructure to stimulate demand in the short-term and boost supply in the long-term.

Key challenges

- Maintain demand for building and construction and related industry services.
- Uncertainty impacts developer and investor confidence.
- Prohibitive planning and investment processes.

Priorities

- Enact legislation to simplify and fast track planning through a centralised approval mechanism to support investment and development during a pandemic.
- Bring forward infrastructure and investment plans.
- Simply, unify and reduce costs associated with investing and developing in Tasmania .
- Foster developer and investor confidence through streamlined processes and willingness to work with proponents to deliver not stifle projects.
- Simplify and reduce costs associated with investing and developing in Tasmania.

Outcomes

- Improved developer and investor confidence and improved positioning of Tasmania as a place to invest.
- Increase number of developments and investments in Tasmania.



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