ACCI Agenda for Business

Policy Report Card

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is Australia's **largest** and **most representative** business network. We are committed to advocating for policies that create a **robust and competitive economic landscape.**

ACCI's *Agenda for Business,* presented our policy platform for the 2025 Australian federal election. This document serves as a blueprint to improve Australia's business environment, foster growth and drive broader prosperity.

The *Agenda for Business* identifies opportunities for serious, substantial economic reform, and contains concrete suggestions for improvements in five priority themes:

1. Boosting Productivity and Business Competitiveness
2. Growing Skills and Workplace Flexibility
3. Open Markets and a Dynamic Economy
4. Affordable Energy while Protecting Environment
5. Growing Digital Capabilities

These themes encapsulate our strategic vision to address the critical challenges and opportunities facing Australian businesses today.

If we get the policy settings right in Australia, we can unleash enormous economic opportunities and benefits from the business community. When businesses see a better policy environment, they will be quick to respond with investment, jobs, and innovation, each of which will underpin growing living standards for the future.

ACCI has reviewed and assessed the policy platforms of the major parties and the Australian Greens against these themes and the policy priorities set out in Agenda for Business. The assessment is based on the response to a detailed survey sent to the campaign offices of the major parties and public policy announcements before and during the election campaign.

Andrew McKellar
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Key

- ❌ No commitment
- ➖ Partial commitment
- ✅ Commitment

Pillar 1: Boosting productivity and business competitiveness

Boosting productivity is vital for improving real wages, business profits and overall wealth in Australia. The focus for policymakers should be on getting fiscal settings right, modernising our ramshackle tax system, reducing regulatory burdens, and encouraging business investment in innovation and technology.

		LABOR	COALITION	GREENS
01	Commit to comprehensive tax reform, including reform of federal-state arrangements	✗	✗	✗
02	Create a Tax and Federation Reform Commission	✗	✗	✗
03	Reduce the company tax rate to 25 per cent for all businesses	✗	✗	✗
05	Increase thresholds for the Instant Asset Write-Off and make it a permanent feature of the tax system	–	–	✗
06	Commit to government expenditure levels at less than 25 per cent of GDP	✗	–	✗
07	Commit to a fiscal strategy of achieving underlying budget balance on average over the economic cycle	–	✓	✗
08	Create a dedicated Minister for Red Tape Reduction and a cross-agency 'Red Tape Taskforce'	✗	–	✗
09	Greater alignment of small business definitions broadly across protfolios	✗	✗	✗
10	Streamline the definition of small business in the Fair Work Act to fewer than 25 employees	✗	✗	✗
11	Require a Small Business Impact Analysis for all legislative and regulatory intruments	✗	✓	✗
12	Greater incentives to lift investment in research and development and assist businesses to commercialise innovation breakthroughs	–	–	–

Pillar 2: Growing Skills and Workplace Flexibility

Our workplace relations system is rigid, complex and unproducitve.

Enhancing workplace flexibility boosts productivity by allowing tailored working arrangements that meet the specific needs of both employers and employees. Simplifying the system cuts red tape and administrative burdens, enabling employers to focus on growing their business.

		LABOR	COALITION	GREENS
13	Government funding support for students to study with a broader range of providers	–	✓	✗
14	Shift focus of international education policy away from student caps and limits	✗	✗	✓
15	Incentivise apprenticeships to build the future workforce	–	–	✗
16	Promote enterprise-level bargaining and remove disincentives that hinder enterprise -level agreement making	✗	–	✗
17	Reverse damaging changes introduced in 'Closing Loopholes' legislation	✗	✓	✗
18	Re-instate an effective construction industry watchdog and strengthen the 'Fit and Proper Person' test for Right of Entry permits	✗	✓	✗
19	Reform Individual Flexibility Arrangements and require Paid Parental Leave payments be made directly by Services Australia	✗	✗	✗
20	Remove clauses from Fair Work Act that interfere with managerial prerogative	✗	–	✗
21	Establish a small business division of the Fair Work Commission to expedite decisions and tailor advice for small employers	✗	–	✗
22	Enable the FWO to provide binding advice to small business owners on modern award matters	✗	–	✗

Pillar 3: Open Markets and a Dynamic Economy

Australia's commercial and economic interests are best served by a free and liberal system of global trade, capital, investment and information.

Supporting Australian businesses to be internationally competitive and enhancing our attractiveness as a destination for investment and tourism will underpin Australia's success in a dynamic, modern economy.

		LABOR	COALITION	GREENS
23	Promote the benefits of free trade and continue productive role of Australia in reducing global barriers to trade	✓	✓	✗
24	Put more resources into securing free trade agreements and facilitating Australian bilateral trade activity	✓	✓	✗
25	Oppose trade protectionism and resist pressure for trade barriers to address problems more appropriately dealt with through other channels	✓	✓	✗
26	Promote diversification of export markets as a risk mitigant for increased geo-political and trade uncertainty	✓	✓	✗
27	Replace the outdated manual Incoming Passenger Card with a digital process	✗	✓	✗
28	Digitalise and outsource the Tourist Refund Scheme system	✗	–	✗
29	Increase funding for Tourism Australia to $240 million per annum	–	–	–

Pillar 4: Affordable energy while protecting the environment

Affordability, reliability and security of energy must be at the heart of energy policy.

Given the competing demands, carbon emissions policy should be integrated into energy policy, to ensure balance and minimise conflict in policy objectives. It is important that energy policies focus on market-based solutions that stimulate private sector investment and increase competition in the market.

		LABOR	COALITION	GREENS
30	Streamline and fast-track environmental approvals and rethink Nature Positive regulatory changes that threaten economic development	–	✓	✗
31	Task the Productivity Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of climate change policies at federal and state levels	✗	✗	✗
32	Achieve the journey to net-zero at the lowest cost by focusing on market-based solutions	–	–	✗
33	Adopt a fuel source-neutral approach to energy supply	–	–	✗
34	Work with state governments to unlock restrictions on gas exploration and streamline approvals to increase domestic supply	–	✓	✗
35	Commit to increasing transparency regarding the future energy transition task to build investor and business confidence	✗	✗	✗

Pillar 5: Growing digital capabilities

Digital technologies, including the uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI), is an important driver for productivity in the Australian economy.

Australia has a highly skilled workforce, but there remain important gaps regarding digitalisation and security. There is a pressing need for more awareness of the use and benefits of these new technologies to ensure that Australia's private sector can remain globally competitive.

		LABOR	COALITION	GREENS
36	Convert the Minister for Communications portfolio into a broader Minister for Digital Matters	✗	✗	✗
37	Commit to developing a national plan to improve digital skills across all occupations and reduce digital inequity	–	–	✗
38	Reinstate and make permanent the Small Business Technology Investment Boost	✗	✓	✗
39	Commit to developing a national AI adoption strategy	✓	–	✗
40	Commit to reviewing the Data Availability and Transparency Act to allow for data sharing with the private sector as a foundation for technological developments	✓	✓	✗