

# Forum Focus: Services

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Knowledge Influence Support

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## Chairman's Message *from Tony Joyner, Partner – Freehills*

I would like to thank CCI and the Services Forum for providing me with the opportunity to take on the role of chair.

It has been a busy year for CCI, the Advocacy team and its Services Forum. In 2010, the Forum has dealt with a host of key policy issues from skills and labour shortages to identifying and promoting the infrastructure needs of the State.

A core issue for the Forum this year has been the role of migration in appeasing labour and skill shortages. A particular success of CCI in this policy area was developing, in conjunction with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, a skilled migration plan for the Department of Training and Workforce Development. This plan has been recommended to be implemented in full in the State's recently released *Skilling WA: A Workforce Development Plan*. This will be vital to help to secure the people we need to meet the demands of our growing economy.

2011 promises to be another busy year for our advocacy efforts. CCI and the Services Forum will continue to advocate for appropriate policy levers to be utilised to improve business conditions in Western Australia. This includes implementing flexible and efficient migration policies, and reducing the tax and regulatory burden on businesses.

A detailed list of CCI's policy priorities for 2011 can be found in this edition of Forum Focus.

## Introducing the new chair of the Services Forum

CCI is pleased to welcome Tony Joyner as the new chair of the Services Forum. Mr Joyner was elected to the position of chair on the 9 December meeting. He succeeds Ian Satchwell, who has taken an advisory role within Indonesia's Ministry of Trade. CCI thanks Mr Satchwell for his contribution to the Forum and wish him all the best in his new role.

Mr Joyner is a long-standing advocate of the Chamber, currently serving his fifth year as a member on a number of CCI committees and forums.

He is a partner at Freehills, an international Australian-based law firm. He is a senior member of the national projects team, with substantial experience in commercial matters, including corporate contracts,

commercial advice, management and governance and major projects.

He is also the head of the Western Australia Corporate Technology and IP team, which deals in corporate and commercial matters - particularly as they relate to technology and IP matters - and technology-focused companies and enterprises.

## CCI Pre-Budget submission highlights policy needs of business

In December, CCI issued its Pre-Budget Submission to the State Government ahead of the budget planning process. The submission sets out CCI's policy priorities for 2011-12.

This year's submission is set in the context of Western Australia's rapidly recovering economy which, as well as generating new opportunities for

the State, will also see many of the challenges which plagued the State in recent years resurface. The WA Government has made some important first steps in addressing some of the challenges facing local businesses and the community, but more needs to be done.

CCI is calling on the State Government to use the 2011-12 Budget to continue the reforms that it has started. Having in place appropriate policy measures will be critical to encouraging growth and development and addressing the key challenges facing the WA economy. This will ensure that the State is well positioned to sustain and leverage off current and future economic opportunities.

A full copy of CCI's Pre-Budget submission can be found [here](#).

## Cabinet re-shuffle

On 14 December 2010, the Premier Colin Barnett announced a new cabinet for the Liberal-National Government. Fifteen changes have been made to the line-up. Of particular relevance to the Services sector, changes include adding the role of Treasurer to Christian Porter's already influential Attorney General's responsibilities; allocating Indigenous Affairs to Peter Collier's Workforce Development and Training and Energy portfolio responsibilities; and former Transport Minister Simon O'Brien was given the newly-created portfolio of Finance as well as Small Business and Commerce.

CCI has already begun to work with the Ministers in their new portfolios.



Left: Christian Porter - Treasurer and Attorney General. Bottom left: Peter Collier - Minister for Energy, Training and Workforce Development; Indigenous Affairs. Bottom right: Simon O'Brien - Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small business



## ACCI blueprint

ACCI is currently in the process of developing a blue print of the services sector for stakeholders to better understand the characteristics of the sectors and ensure we adopt the appropriate policy settings to deal with the challenges the services sector faces. The draft document outlines 79 recommendations across a range of policy areas including taxation, regulation, work place relations and human capital.

It is expected that the final version will be finalised in early 2011.

A copy of the draft report can be obtained by emailing [lena.constantine@cciwa.com](mailto:lena.constantine@cciwa.com).

**Fast fact: Four in every five jobs created in the economy are attributed to the services sector.**

## State of Industry Report - tourism sector

Tourism Research Australia has recently released its inaugural *State of Industry Report 2010*. The report provides the Australian tourism industry with a set of benchmarks against which tourism industry performance can be measured. Its findings show that the tourism industry is facing many challenges. Higher productivity is essential for the industry to provide better infrastructure, services and products.

A copy of the report can be downloaded [here](#).

**Fast fact: In Western Australia tourism generates over 80,000 jobs and injects \$7 billion in the State's economy.**

## A sustainable population

On 16 December 2010, the Federal Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Tony Burke released the Sustainable Population Strategy Issues Paper and called for all Australians to have their say about Australia's changing population.

The paper distils the major issues identified in reports prepared by the three independent Sustainable Population Strategy Advisory Panels established in July 2010. The reports focus on demographic change and liveability, productivity and prosperity, and sustainable development.

The issues paper as well as details of the public consultation process and the formal submission process are available from the department's website at [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au).

**Fast fact: A sustainable population is one where changes in the population's size, distribution or composition are managed to provide for positive economic, environmental and social outcomes.**

## Policy Priorities in 2011

In 2011, CCI has identified the following policy priorities:

- local content;
- tax reform ahead of the National Tax Summit
- water policy;
- preventative health measures;
- infrastructure priorities and funding;
- indigenous workforce participation;
- migration;
- improving productivity;
- industrial relations; and
- reducing the cost of doing business;
- productivity.

## Skilling WA

In December 2010, the Hon. Peter Collier, Minister for Training and Workforce Development, released the highly anticipated *Skilling WA- A Workforce Development Plan for Western Australia*. To officially launch the Plan, the CCI hosted a breakfast on 10 December 2010, attended by a number of members, government representatives and CCI staff.

CCI has turned it's attention to ensure the plan is implemented properly and delivers intended results.

A copy of Skilling WA can be downloaded [here](#).



The Hon. Peter Collier launching Skilling WA- A Workforce Development Plan for Western Australia at CCI.