



Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business
Hon Simon O'Brien MLC

Our Ref: 29-18591

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA Inc.
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

NATIONAL MODEL WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY LAWS

Thank you for your letter dated 3 June 2011 outlining your concerns about the potential impact of the model work health and safety laws. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I note that you are particularly concerned about the effect that the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations ('the Model Regulations') will have on operators in the small business sector.

I share your concerns about the impact on small business and can assure you that the Western Australian Government is making every effort to keep the regulatory burden to a minimum while at the same time making sure that the high standards of occupational health and safety we currently have in Western Australia are not eroded.

In its recent submission on the Model Regulations, the Department of Commerce made a number of references to the impact the Model Regulations would be likely to have on small business operators both in terms of additional costs and increased regulatory burden.

In particular, the Department expressed the view that, to date, the harmonisation process has clearly considered the large business sector (as represented by cross-jurisdictional operators) but in the process will be likely, albeit perhaps inadvertently, to place a significant burden on those outside the large sector, without any identifiable off-setting benefits.

The Department also highlighted in its submission the fact that the proposed increase in the administrative requirements in areas such as notification and registration would impose additional costs on industry that would be likely to impact disproportionately on small business.

I am pleased to report that as a consequence of the comments the Department and others have made in this regard, significant changes are being made to reduce the amount of red tape, and consequently the potential costs for industry, in the final version of the Model Regulations.

In closing, I would like to reassure the Combined Small Business Alliance of Western Australia Inc that the Western Australian Government will continue to press for an outcome that takes full account of the needs of the small business community.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

EACHAM CURRY
CHIEF OF STAFF

26 JUL 2011



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA - THE SENATE

Senator the Hon

Eric Abetz

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

21st June, 2011

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Offer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the overhaul of workplace relations laws.

You have outlined a number of key areas of concern that the Coalition is keeping a close eye on.

As you would be aware, we are currently looking to the wider community to make the case for change in the workplace relations space.

I note that you have associated yourself closely with the comments of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Western Australia who recently put forward a comprehensive policy paper.

I look forward to a continued dialogue on industrial relations. Please feel free to contact my portfolio adviser, Josh Manuatu on (02) 6277 3019 or josh.manuatu@aph.gov.au.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to me on this very important issue.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate
Shadow Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

...advancing Tasmania's interests.



**Minister for Finance; Commerce; Small Business
Hon Simon O'Brien MLC**

Your ref: 29-18576

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA (Inc)
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon 

BUDGET FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONER

Thank you for your letter dated 2 June 2011 in relation to the budget allocation of \$300,000 outlined for the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) against the Small Business Commissioner item in the 2011/12 State Budget.

As I discussed in my correspondence of 4 April 2011 to your Vice President, Mr Rod Henderson, the Government is committed to the successful establishment and ongoing operation of the Commissioner.

The SBDC has made adequate provision in its budget for the forthcoming year to allow for:

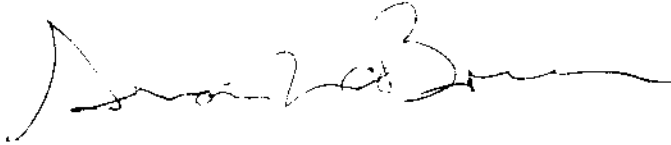
- the recruitment and remuneration of the Commissioner;
- the recruitment of an appropriately qualified dispute resolution team;
- marketing, legal and communications expenses; and
- Government subsidised mediation for formal mediation cases.

Funding the new service will not impact on the current functions of the SBDC.

It is expected that some recurrent funding will be required to maintain the service into the future. Once the service is in operation and a more accurate understanding has been gained of the volume of complaints being received, the Government will undertake a review of funding arrangements and address any further resource needs in a future budget round.

I hope this allays your concerns regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon O'Brien', written in a cursive style.

20 JUN 2011

SIMON O'BRIEN MLC

MINISTER FOR FINANCE; COMMERCE; SMALL BUSINESS



15 July 2011

Our Ref: A2441779 (CP01834/2010/5)

Enquiries: Amanda Blackwell 9282 0587
Karen Keyser 9282 0570

Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

COMMERCIAL TENANCY – IMPROVING ACCESS TO LEASE INFORMATION

As you may be aware, the Government is proposing to make a range of amendments to the *Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreements Act 1985* (the Act) with a view to improving the retail shop tenancy rights of small business. The Government has introduced an amendment Bill into the Parliament and is hopeful that it will be passed in the spring sittings this year.

The Government is also committed to considering further options for improving access to information about retail leases in Western Australia.

The Department of Commerce released a Position Paper in September 2010, which sought feedback on an option to require landlords in retail shopping centres to maintain a register of relevant tenant lease details for view by existing and potential tenants. Analysis of the submissions received from industry participants indicated that there was limited support for this model. Therefore, the Government does not intend to progress with this particular proposal.

During the course of various reviews and consultations, industry participants have made a number of alternate suggestions to improve accessibility to lease information in the retail tenancy market. Consequently the enclosed Consultation Paper outlines four options:

- Option 1 - Increased valuer access to information;
- Option 2 - Public lease register;
- Option 3 - Mandatory registration on land title; and
- Option 4 - Status quo.

There has been strong interest in this issue and widely diverging views on the best method of improving transparency in respect to retail lease information.

.../2

I would encourage you to have your say through this consultation process, and assure you that the full range of feedback received will be considered carefully. The information obtained from this consultation and the further analysis of impacts will be used to prepare a 'Decision – Regulatory Impact Statement' (Decision RIS), in accordance with the requirements of the State's Regulatory Gatekeeping Unit.

This Decision RIS will identify the preferred option and the reasons for its selection. The Decision RIS will be provided to the Government to assist in determining which proposal will be implemented.

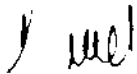
If you wish to provide feedback in relation to the enclosed Consultation Paper, please forward your comments to the following address by **19 August 2011**:

Amanda Blackwell / Karen Keyser
Legal Policy Officers
Department of Commerce
Consumer Protection Division
Locked Bag 14
Cloisters Square WA 6850

Amanda.Blackwell@commerce.wa.gov.au (Monday, Friday)
or
Karen.Keyser@commerce.wa.gov.au (Tuesday, Thursday).

An electronic copy of the Consultation Paper is also available on the Department of Commerce's website at the following address: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/ConsumerProtection/Content/Resources/Consultations.html>.

Yours sincerely



Anne Driscoll
COMMISSIONER FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION

att.



Mr Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance of WA
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

I wish to inform you that the Minister for Commerce, Hon Simon O'Brien MLC has approved a variation to retail trading hours in the Perth Special Trading Precinct (STP) on the public holiday of Friday, 28 October 2011, to coincide with the first day of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

General retail shops in the Perth STP will now be able to trade from 8am until 9pm on that day, in a bid to attract people into the City centre to enjoy the CHOGM festivities, which will be officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The variation will enable consumers and retailers to participate in the CHOGM events in the City centre, including the Commonwealth Festival and the Royal Motorcade, and leaves the decision of whether to utilise the extended trading hours with individual retailers and consumers.

The variation will apply to the Perth STP general retail shops only. The retail trading hours of the other STPs in Fremantle, Joondalup, Armadale and Midland remain unchanged for the public holiday. General retail shops within these precincts will be able to trade from 8am and 5pm on this day.

Prior to requesting the Minister to facilitate the variation, the Western Australian CHOGM Steering Committee consulted with various bodies including the Retail Traders' Association, Unions WA, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who responded positively to the proposed variation.

The Order giving effect to this variation was published in the Government Gazette on 1 July 2011. I would appreciate it if you could inform your members of this variation.

Yours sincerely



Richard Muirhead
STATE DIRECTOR
2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

13 July 2011