

Boost the economy and reduce the burden on business

NSW Business Chamber Campaign	Outcome	Business Impact
Protect business operators from a 28% hike in workers compensation premiums	Workers compensation scheme reformed and premium rates maintained at existing levels	Protected 12,600 job and job opportunities from being lost and saved over \$700 million in additional costs
Improve the Workcover system	Following detailed submissions and advocacy by the NSW Business Chamber, the Government has made improvements to the Workcover system which will result in a workers compensations system with a greater focus on return to work, increased support for injured workers and significant savings for employers across the state.	Roll out of the 2012 reforms have enabled average premium reductions of 7.5% for 167,000 employers across the state for policies renewing on or after 30 June 2013. No tariff rates will be increased. The saving for NSW business is more than \$200 million a year. The definition of a small business for workers compensation purposes has also been expanded, meaning 95% of NSW employers will now have a very simple premium calculation and premiums which will not be directly impacted by any claims. They will also receive incentives to improve workplace safety and return to work.
Cut the payroll tax burden	Campaigned to increase the payroll tax threshold to exempt more businesses from payroll tax.	In the 2013 Budget the NSW Government announced that the payroll tax threshold will rise from \$689,000 to \$750,000, this will exempt 1,300 new businesses from payroll tax and save businesses an average of \$3,325.
Reduce the cost of doing business	NSW Government commits to a red tape target to cut costs on business.	The Government is committed to achieving a 'one on two off' red tape reduction target of \$750 million by 2015 significantly reducing the regulatory burden on business. Over 2012, savings from these initiatives are estimated to total \$210 million.
Eliminate light vehicle rego stickers	From 1 January 2013 registration stickers are no longer required to be displayed on vehicles less than 4.5 tonnes.	NSW Business Chamber estimates this change will lead to savings of \$5 million a year for NSW businesses or 160,000 hours of unnecessary red tape.
Reduce proposed Sydney Water price increases.	IPART rejected Sydney Water's proposal to increase water and sewerage prices by an average of 15% above CPI over 2012-16.	Sydney Water's charges over 2012-16 will now fall in real terms, which will lead to an average decrease in real water and sewerage costs for businesses, however the impact will be mixed depending on business size and structure.
Develop a national and fairer WH&S system	NSW Government agrees to a national WH&S system which removes some unfair provisions on employers.	A national WH&S system with removal of the reverse onus of proof, no union prosecutions and adoption of 'reasonably practicable' duty of care.

NSW Business Chamber Campaign	Outcome	Business Impact
Increase opportunities for private sector in the delivery of government services	NSW Government undertakes financial and management audits of government finances and services, with the Schott report identifying new opportunities for savings and private sector involvement.	NSW Government has committed to better utilizing the private sector in the delivery of services. Premier O'Farrell has stated that "Where there is a better way of delivering a government service or program, which maintains or exceeds appropriate standards, delivers results and defends public value, I believe government is morally and economically obliged to consider it."

Build the Workforce of the Future

NSW Business Chamber Campaign	Outcome	Business Impact
Introduce a skills list for the vocational education system that aligns industry needs with student entitlements	The NSW Minister for Education announced that State Training Services will work closely with industry to develop a skills list to guide entitlement eligibility and funding.	The skills list will help ensure that industry demands for skills align with student course entitlements.
Extend youth attainment and transition programs.	The Federal Budget 2013-2014 included a 12 month extension to the School Business Community Partnership Brokers program.	A report by Social Ventures Australia found for every \$1 invested by the Australian Government, Partnership Brokers have been the catalyst for up to \$5.50 of created social value.
Extend Australian Apprenticeship Support Services	In June 2013, the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education announced an extension to Australian Apprenticeship Support Service (AASS) contract through to 30 June 2015.	The Chamber has strongly advocated for the retention of the AASS program since 2010. The extension ensures that apprenticeship services will continue to be delivered in a competitive and contestable environment, delivering quality services to individuals and employers.
Improve Teacher Quality	In March 2013, the NSW Minister for Education released <i>Great Teaching, Inspired Learning: A blueprint for action</i> . Actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with universities to improve pre-service teacher training Improving teacher quality with initiatives that target teachers at all stages of their careers. 	Teaching is the single largest in-school determinant of success at school and significantly impacts on school leavers work readiness.
Simplify the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) to make it easier for employers to participate	In June 2013, the Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Participation, the Hon Julie Collins MP, announced new application and assessment processes for the IEP.	The new processes will allow a wider range of businesses the opportunity to offer sustainable employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and assist in delivering on "Closing the Gap" employment targets.
Develop a National Career Development Strategy to raise educational attainment, improve career transitions, labour force participation, and productivity.	In May 2013, the Minister for School Education and Youth, Peter Garrett, launched the National Career Development Strategy	This includes a \$6.1 million package of projects to implement the strategy. Some key elements of the NSW Business Chamber and ACCI submissions are captured in the strategy.

Improve Infrastructure

NSW Business Chamber Campaign	Outcome	Business Impact
Fund the F3 to M2 Road Link	The 2013 NSW Budget announced \$15 million to help finance the procurement of the link. NSW has also reserved a contribution of up to \$400 million in the Restart NSW Fund which will be matched by the Federal Government once the project moves ahead.	The F3 to M2 link would significantly cut travel times between the Central Coast, CBD and Western Sydney. The link would avoid 22 traffic lights and reduce operating costs for freight carriers both to and from Sydney.
Divert federal funding for Epping to Parramatta rail link to Pacific Highway upgrade	Federal Coalition announces intention to divert \$2.1 billion for Epping to Parramatta rail link to Pacific Highway upgrade if elected	Diverting funding to Pacific Highway upgrade would provide the majority of funding needed to complete the long overdue upgrade by 2020.
'Swap' NSW Government assets that can be operated by the private sector with new infrastructure that only government can fund	NSW Government privatises NSW Lotteries, franchises Sydney Ferries, leases Desal Plant, leasing Port Botany; selling NSW electricity generators	The NSW Government has so far allocated \$4.3 billion from the Ports transaction and \$312 million from the lease of the Sydney Desalination Plant towards the Restart NSW fund which will be allocated to the WestConnex motorway, upgrades to the Pacific and Princes Highways and the Bridges to the Bush program.
Improve accountability on the Pacific Highway upgrade through a six-monthly report card	NSW Government agrees to produce six-monthly report cards on the progress of upgrading the Pacific Highway	The report card provides a tool to keep the community informed about the status of the Pacific Highway upgrade on its target to completion in 2016.
Take the politics out of infrastructure by establishing Infrastructure NSW	NSW Government creates Infrastructure NSW to independently identify NSW's future infrastructure needs	Following the release of Infrastructure NSW's <i>First Things First</i> , the NSW Government's State Infrastructure Strategy, which details infrastructure investment over the next 20 years, incorporates 13 of 17 recommendations put forward by the NSW Business Chamber.

Reform Government

NSW Business Chamber Campaign	Outcome	Business Impact
Ban Councillors from also sitting as Members of Parliament	Legislation prohibiting the practice of holding the office of councillor and MP simultaneously has now been enacted	Councillors and MP's will be more fully engaged in their roles and possible conflicts of interests arising from holding dual offices have now been removed.
Provide legislative backing to the office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner	The NSW Government appointed Yasmin King as the state's inaugural small business commissioner	Legislation providing the Commissioner with rights and powers as an independent statutory officer has now been enacted.
Roll out One Stop Shops for NSW Government services	NSW Government services will be amalgamated into over 100 One Stop Shops	The introduction of the one stop shops will help to streamline the delivery and access to Government services for business.
Establish a Cross Border Commission to overcome regulatory inconsistencies between states	Mr. Steve Toms has been appointed as NSW's first Cross Border Commissioner	The Cross Border Commissioner acts as an advocate for border communities and works to optimise the delivery of services in these areas.

Document updated: 8 July 2013