

Policy and Advocacy Priorities 2022

On behalf of the South Australian
business community

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Business SA

Our purpose is clear and unequivocal: we exist to create a stronger South Australia by supporting the business community.

Our mission is to create the best possible environment for businesses to grow in and succeed.

Policy and Advocacy

Our team of experts obtains feedback from businesses on critical issues then conducts research, analyses, and consults to determine our policy positions. Once we have identified a policy beneficial for the state's business environment, we commence an advocacy campaign. Our advocacy efforts are tailored to each specific policy issue, ensuring that we adopt a targeted approach to influence the outcome in an efficient and effective manner.

Our advocacy efforts include a combination of face-to-face meetings with ministers and other high-level decision-makers, presentations to State Cabinet, media campaigns, opinion articles in prominent publications, and working together with other industry groups to present a united voice for business.

Business SA's most recent advocacy success is the outcome of the 'Summerfield case', which culminated in South Australia's Parliament passing the Return to Work (Scheme Sustainability) Amendment Bill 2022 on 5 July, resulting in savings of thousands of dollars in ReturnToWorkSA premiums for South Australian businesses.

Our policy and advocacy work is broad-based. We represent 3,900 Business SA members across 19 industry sectors, from the smallest micro-businesses to the largest multinational companies.

The Team



Kendall Crowe
General Manager, Policy,
Advocacy and International
Services



Karen van Gorp
Senior Policy Adviser

- Employment and skills
- Migration
- Workplace relations
- Equal opportunity
- Workers' compensation



Yarik Turianskyi
Senior Policy Adviser

- Energy (national)
- Trade and supply chains
- Sustainability and circular economy
- Infrastructure and transport



Jordan Smith
Policy Adviser

- Energy (local)
- Economic indicators
- Water
- Tax

Priorities 2022

Costs of doing business

Businesses continue to face increasing real wage costs. For the 2022-23 financial year this includes wage increases (through the annual wage review) of 4.6 per cent, superannuation increases of 0.5 per cent and significant ReturnToWorkSA premium increases.

Additionally, businesses face continuously escalating costs, such as inflation, insurance, transport costs, energy, interest rates, fuel and materials.

Business SA is monitoring the ongoing cost increases and is engaging with relevant decision makers to explore relief options.

Labour shortages, population and migration

Most South Australian businesses are facing significant labour shortages. The shortages are in part attributable to international borders being closed for almost two years.

Business SA provided input for the Jobs and Skills Summit (1-2 September 2022) through meetings with the Premier and counterparts in the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We will also work closely with stakeholders to inform the Federal Government's Employment White Paper.

Industrial relations agenda

The State Government is planning to overhaul a number of workplace laws including criminalising underpayment of wages, introducing industrial manslaughter, broadening portable long service to more sectors and amending labour hire legislation.

Business SA is working with other industry bodies to ensure the government hears a united voice in support of employers.

Energy

In June 2022 South Australia, like most other states and territories, experienced rapidly escalating electricity and gas prices, as well as supply shortages. This was a result of a multitude of factors, including less renewable energy being generated due to a cold front, outages of coalpowered generators and wet coal due to rainy conditions, and soaring global gas prices.

Business SA's Energy, Water and Sustainability reference group will continue meeting to discuss business challenges to guide further action.

Housing shortage

Our members have expressed their grave concerns over the housing crisis in South Australia and how it exacerbates the skills and labour shortages – especially in regional areas.

In March 2022 rental vacancy availability rates were 0.2 per cent.

Through its advocacy work, Business SA ensures any discussions on skills and labour shortages are linked to the housing crisis.



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