



**The Hon Bruce Billson MP  
Shadow Minister for Small Business,  
Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs**

Dear Bruce,

I have just read your speech to the *Council of Small Business of Australia* Business Leaders Dinner held on 7 March. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend.

I want you to know that in our view ***'The Coalition National Strategy to Restore Small Business Hope, Reward and Opportunity'*** is a highly significant milestone in policy development for small business and independent contracting in this country. You have our warm appreciation for the careful analysis and substantial commitments that you have made in this speech on behalf of the Abbott Coalition opposition.

I particularly want to thank you for your work reflected in the section headed ***'Extending Unfair Contracts Protections'*** on page 14 where you say "In the area of the relationship between small business and big business, we've long argued the unfair contract terms protections available for consumers should be extended to small businesses". You will be aware from the meeting we had with you last year, at the *NAB National Small Business Summit* held on 26 and 27 July, that this is an issue that is central to the policy agenda of the Independent Contractors of Australia. Your unequivocal commitment to "ensure small business gets those protections currently limited to consumers" is highly valued by my board and our members. For us, this issue and the Coalition's commitment in respect to it, will be central in our campaign leading up to the next federal election.

Again many thanks for your efforts and good luck.

Yours sincerely,

Norman

**Norman Lacy,  
President, Independent Contractors of Australia**