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# Big five business wishes for May 3

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**A**s a business advocacy organisation, Business Sydney doesn't pick sides in federal elections.

But we do know good policy outcomes for our city to help the business community create jobs.

For this to happen, there are five major issues both sides of politics must address.

These are the major concerns that lead our business conditions survey each quarter.

First of the "big five" is the skills shortage currently at crisis level. Ask any business owner across any sector and they will tell you they can't find experienced employees.

It's particularly acute in the hospitality sector, which is the best hope of the side to make Sydney a 24-hour global city with a thriving night time economy.

Businesses have to wade through hundreds of pages of legislation and regulation.

Any change – for better or worse – is accompanied by more reams of regulation and red tape.

Let's make simplifying the tax system and reducing regulatory burdens a priority.

Thirdly, businesses are crying out for policies that deliver cheaper and reliable energy.

We all ultimately pay for the high energy costs that afflict business operators.

Fourth, there must also be reform of the insurance sector.

Businesses regularly complain to us of double-digit premium increases year-to-year. They can't absorb these costs.

Finally, more investment in transport infrastructure is essential.

High speed trains to Sydney from Newcastle and Wollongong need to emerge from pipe dream status. Being able to access the city from further afield is also a way of making affordable housing more available.

Getting interest rates down is everyone's hope and is key to business investment, expansion and job growth. But the biggest consideration for the business community is the return of certainty in an uncertain world.

By nature, elections press the "pause" button while the nation decides who will lead for the next three years. The hope is that May 3 will be the prelude to an environment conducive to growth in which the contribution of the business community is respected and valued.

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