

C.O.G. – An opportunity for economic policy recommendations

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A change of Government following an election creates an opportunity to canvas or espouse more significant policy changes than when a similar government is returned.

Economic policy under Liberal governments in Australia tends more towards monetarist and “laissez-faire” economic policies than those under Labor governments, which tend to be more Keynesian.

This variance shows up, particularly in the attitude to employment, where it is seen, in economic terms, largely as a cost of business by Liberal/National governments, whereas it is seen as a desirable outcome, of itself, by Labor governments.

The development and presentation of policy recommendations can be informed by this difference in philosophy, such that, whilst under one scenario employment policy changes in employment policy are best “sold” as fiscal outcomes, under the other scenario the social benefits of fuller employment, and domestic focus, can be amplified.

Within the technology industries and professions, the historic reliance on significant short-term visa holders and offshore outsourcing to overcome skills shortages, has been easier for lobbyists to justify purely fiscally, but these practices are subject to different metrics when questions of sovereignty, national sustainability, and domestic employment maximisation are considered more significant by the government of the day.

Accordingly, professional and trade associations within the technology sphere can benefit by presenting a more nuanced view of the significance of growing and maintaining the Australian domestic technology industry, and, especially, of growing and maintaining Australian domestic technology employment.

Technological skills, training, research, professional accreditation, and industry development – (investment, infrastructure, regional hubs, government purchasing) are all policy areas in which the philosophical differences of the party in government impacts the acceptability and potential implementation of changes in policy and practice.

A change of Government presents the opportunity to be bold.