

Report Card on Red Tape Reduction

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The Newman Government is working hard to deliver on its promise to cut onerous red tape and regulation by 20%, with hundreds of initiatives underway across all Government departments



The Newman Government is continuing to deliver tangible benefits for business and the community by reducing burdensome red tape. I am pleased to advise the Government has now progressed more than 400 specific red tape

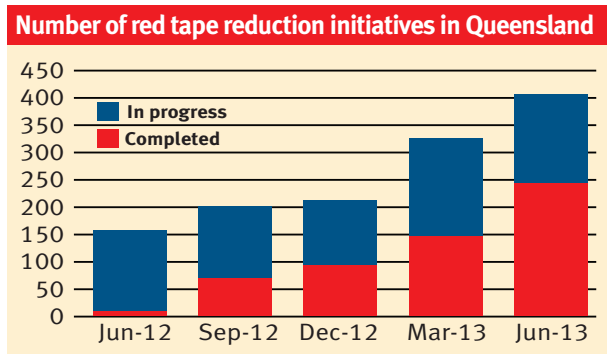
reduction initiatives with almost 250 of these reforms now fully implemented.

The Government also recently took another important step in its regulatory reform agenda with the release of its response to the Office of Best Practice Regulation's Final Report on a framework for measuring and reducing the burden of regulation. The framework is aimed at creating a culture across Government of reducing red tape and alleviating the frustration and burden faced by business, community organisations and individuals dealing with onerous and unnecessary regulation.

This Report Card details the Government's key recent red tape reduction achievements and also highlights the inroads made to date in reforming regulation in the resources sector and reducing red tape for not-for-profit and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

Deb Frecklington MP

Assistant Minister for Finance Administration and Regulatory Reform



Regulatory reform in the resources sector

Regulatory reforms implemented in Queensland in 2012-13 are expected to generate substantial savings for the State's resources sector, improving the viability and competitiveness of businesses operating in the mining and exploration industries.

Key initiatives include:

- Streamlining Project**
 This project has transformed and streamlined resource permit approvals, through establishment of the Mines Online and MyMines Online portals to enable lodgement and tracking of a range of activity, notices, permit applications and post-grant dealings.
- Greentape Reduction Project**
 This suite of reforms delivers an integrated approval process for all Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs), including mining, and is expected to save industry an average of \$20,000 per application and reduce average application processing times by 68 days and paperwork by 150 pages.
- Planning and major project approval reforms**
 Proponents of mining projects will benefit from significant planning and development-related reforms aimed at reducing major project assessment times by half and removing red tape for development applications involving state resources.
- Lodging and paying royalties online**
 Mining and petroleum royalties are now able to be lodged and paid online through the Office of State Revenue's OSR Connect, a

secure 24/7 online return lodgement and payment portal.

Recent reforms to significantly streamline the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for large resource projects have seen the terms of reference for an EIS reduced from 100 pages to 25 pages, while retaining the appropriate environmental checks and balances.

A major program of work is also currently underway to integrate five existing resource legislative frameworks into one Act, making it simpler for industry to understand the regulatory requirements and process.

The Queensland Government has also established an Independent Land Access Implementation Committee as part of a process aimed at injecting greater fairness and flexibility into land access negotiations between the State's landholders, other stakeholders and resource companies.

Initiatives benefitting the small mining sector include:

- removing the requirement for small scale mining operations to hold an environmental authority, saving small miners time and application fees;
- removing the need for an estimated 2,400 small mining operators to complete a 15-page administrative requirement, as part of the Greentape Reduction Project reforms; and
- the Government also recently released a discussion paper on small-scale alluvial mining reform, proposing a range of initiatives to cut red tape and costs for the sector.

A detailed list of reforms implemented to date and the benefits to business and the community is available at

www.treasury.qld.gov.au/redtape

Recent key reforms

Agriculture

- Reformed Queensland's vegetation management laws to make the framework simpler for landholders, business and government while maintaining the protection and management of Queensland's vegetation resources. This reform is expected to result in significant savings for landholders each year.
- Water licence holders no longer have to apply to renew their licences, after all current licences were extended to avoid the need for a regular renewal process. Up to 27,000 water licences will now have extended expiry dates, helping landholders manage their properties and grow their businesses more effectively, while still ensuring responsible management of water resources.
- Enabling easier access to water bores for landholders and reducing red tape by removing duplicative legislation for managing vegetation in watercourses, lakes and springs, while still protecting remnant vegetation and the environment.

Tourism

- Enabled the authorisation of privately-operated eco-tourism facilities in national parks.
- Simplified authorisation processes, allowing eco-tourism business to make use of existing infrastructure in national parks such as power lines and water pipelines.
- Removed the 7-year and 10-hectare limits on occupational permits in state forests.
- Ensured that the environmentally-friendly feeding of dolphins at Tin Can Bay can continue.
- Reduced restrictions on whale watching, and removed costly fees and red tape for whale watching operators, to encourage eco-tourism in Queensland marine and national parks and protect pristine marine areas.
- Halved fees for small sewerage plants such as those operated by caravan parks and bed and breakfast accommodation.
- Delivered Queensland's Small Business Strategy and Action Plan, including a range of reforms benefitting small businesses operating in the tourism and hospitality sectors.

Major projects, construction and development

- Streamlined the home sale contracts by removing unnecessary disclosure obligations on sellers in community title schemes.
- Commenced public consultation on the draft Single State Planning Policy.
- Streamlined the development application process for building over or near sewers, water mains and stormwater drains on domestic home sites, saving homeowners up to \$2,000 per application.
- Passed legislation that will allow for the creation and use of self-assessable codes under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* for the purposes of the Integrated Development Assessment System.

Other key sectors

- Developed a library of standard conditions for environmental authority approvals.
- Adopted best-practice Commercial Dispute Resolution Arbitration laws.
- Discontinued the state-based registration of speech pathologists and dental technicians. Removal of the scheme will save the Government recurrent administration costs while also delivering annual savings in registration fees to Queensland dental technicians and speech pathologists.
- Reduced the administrative burden on the community, in particular film festival organisers, by removing duplication from the film classification exemption process.
- Commenced a pilot program that greater utilises Queensland's JPs in the community, helping to alleviate pressure on the courts system for minor civil matters.
- Simplified the environmental approval process by removing 20 ERAs. As a result, more than 12,000 businesses including motor vehicle workshops, commercial printers, welders, steelworkers and cabinet makers no longer have to obtain environmental approvals, contributing significantly to the estimated \$20 million in savings to business and government from the Government's Greentape reduction reforms.
- Commenced public consultation on Retail Shop Lease legislation.

Cutting red tape for not-for-profit and community organisations

A key focus of the Queensland Government's red tape reduction efforts to date has been simplifying and streamlining regulatory requirements imposed on the State's not-for-profit and NGOs including schools, charities, volunteer-run organisations and community groups.

The Government has established the Social Services Cabinet Committee to encourage the development of a strong and sustainable community services sector in Queensland. A key focus of this Committee is consideration of reforms to ensure a more efficient and effective delivery of social services.

Key red tape reforms implemented or progressed throughout 2012-13 include:

- commenced implementation of the Human Service Quality Framework to allow NGOs to conform to one, rather than four, sets of quality standards;
- streamlined child safety licence applications and processes, reducing the time spent by NGOs applying for licences and preparing for assessments;
- simplified the monitoring and reporting requirements for Home and Community Care providers, reducing by up to half the number of separate reports required;

- reduced the requirements to be met by approved non-government providers for disability services when seeking funding approvals;
- reduced the administrative burden on not-for-profit sport and recreation organisations by streamlining acquittal processes for grant recipients and enabling project outcomes to be reported online; and
- working with other jurisdictions in development of a National Regulatory System for community housing providers, aimed at significantly reducing the regulatory burden on providers working across jurisdictions.