

Report Card on Red Tape Reduction

Number 3 - December 2013



The Newman Government welcomes the recent release of the Office of Best Practice Regulation's (OBPR) initial

Annual Report on Reducing the Burden of Regulation in Queensland. The report highlights the significant reductions in red tape in Queensland.

This Report Card details key findings from the report, which show the Government is on track to deliver on its commitment to reduce red tape by 20 per cent by 2018. It also highlights the substantial economic benefits from specific reforms.

Through our determination to reduce red tape, we are making it easier for businesses to get on with creating jobs and growing the Queensland economy.

I am also pleased to announce the release of an interactive database of the Queensland Government's key reforms to date, which is available on the Queensland Treasury and Trade website at www.treasury.qld.gov.au/redtape.

Deb Frecklington MP
Assistant Minister for Finance
Administration and Regulatory Reform

Annual Report highlights Government's progress in reducing red tape

The Office of Best Practice Regulation's (OBPR) 2012-13 Annual Report on Reducing the Burden of Regulation in Queensland provides the first formal and independent measure of the Government's progress in achieving its commitment to reduce red tape.

The Annual Report measures the change in the regulatory burden over the period from March 2012 to 30 June 2013, using a basket of measures.

For the first time, a baseline of the regulatory burden imposed on Queensland business and the community has been identified. This baseline was used by OBPR to set

specific reduction targets for each agency to meet the Government's overall target of reducing red tape by 20 per cent by 2018.

The key measure adopted by OBPR is the change in the number of requirements imposed by State Government regulation. The report shows there are now 9,400 fewer requirements than when the Government came into office. This is a 3.55 per cent decrease in the regulatory burden.

OBPR also examined specific reforms to quantify the economic and financial benefits delivered.

OBPR's Annual Report is available at www.qca.org.au/OBPR/

Removed 9,400 regulatory requirements



Significant economic benefits



Abolished 429 pages of legislation



Reduce red tape by 20% by 2018



Information on reforms and the benefits to business and the community is available at www.treasury.qld.gov.au/redtape

OBPR case studies highlight benefits of reforms

1 Removing the requirement for new houses to install rainwater tanks

Under the previous Queensland Government, home owners were required to install rainwater tanks for all new homes.

To reduce the cost of home construction and ownership, the Newman Government has allowed home owners to choose if they want a rainwater tank.

OBPR's Findings

- Savings to new home owners of approximately \$3,500

Net economic benefit
\$1.1 billion
over 40 years

3 Closure of the Queensland Gas Scheme

The Queensland Gas Scheme will be closed from 31 December 2013. The Gas Scheme, which required certain businesses to source a specific proportion of their electricity from gas-fired generation, was established under the former Queensland Government.

A review found the scheme was adding substantial regulatory and financial burden to the industry, with little benefit to the community.

OBPR's Findings

- Reduces the burden of regulation for energy businesses
- Likely to exert downward pressure on electricity prices
- 385 requirements removed

Cost savings of
\$290 million
over 5 years

5 Simplifying regulation of plumbing works

The Government has reduced red tape for plumbers in relation to routine plumbing work, covering around 75 per cent of plumbing and drainage work in Queensland.

As a result, consumers will benefit from reduced costs associated with most plumbing work performed in existing homes, including kitchen and bathroom additions and renovations, as well as installing or replacing hot water systems.

OBPR's Findings

- Significant savings to the community from reduced fees
- Time savings to plumbers from reduced delays in approvals and inspections
- 11 requirements removed

Cost savings of
\$18 million
per annum from
2013-14 onwards

2 Removing registration requirements for speech pathologists and dental technicians

Registration of many health professionals was transferred to a national scheme in 2012. Speech pathologists and dental technicians still had to be registered under the Queensland scheme.

The Queensland Government no longer requires these two low-risk health professions to be registered in Queensland.

OBPR's Findings

- Annual savings of \$274 for each speech pathologist
- Annual savings of \$291 for each dental technician
- 684 requirements removed

Cost savings of
\$15 million
over 10 years

4 Simplifying regulatory approvals for the coal mining industry

Queensland's coal mining and exploration industry will benefit significantly from reforms introduced to streamline and simplify permit approval processes.

Reforms include: development of the Mines Online and the MyMinesOnline services to facilitate faster applications; simpler processes for granting coal mining leases; and more streamlined environmental approvals.

OBPR's Findings

- Reduced delays for coal mining projects
- 200 requirements removed

Net economic benefit
\$200 million
over 40 years

6 Streamlining the development application and assessment process for selected projects

The Queensland Government's new Economic Development Act 2012 provides for a more streamlined application and assessment process for major development and infrastructure projects.

OBPR's Findings

- Significant benefits for businesses
- Reduced project delays
- Reduced planning, assessment and appeals costs
- 206 requirements removed

Cost savings of
\$135 million
over 10 years