

Report Card on Red Tape Reduction

March 2012 - March 2013



The Newman Government has made significant inroads in delivering on its promise to cut onerous red tape and regulation by

20 per cent. This Report Card highlights the Government's progress in its first year and details our plans for the next 12 months.

We are pleased to advise that the Government has implemented, or is currently implementing, more than 300 red tape reforms to reduce the regulatory burden on business and the community.

We have established the independent Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) within the Queensland Competition Authority. This was a key election commitment to drive regulatory reform and help restore transparency and accountability.

We have also introduced greater rigour to ensure the development of more robust and efficient regulation. Ministers must now get the OBPR's stamp of approval for Regulatory Impact Statements (RISs) before their release for consultation; and agencies must obtain the advice of the OBPR as to whether a RIS is required for a regulatory proposal.

The OBPR also conducts independent reviews of regulatory issues. As a first step, it has reported on a Framework for measuring and reducing the regulatory burden, including priority areas for reform.

This Framework will establish a whole of government regulatory management system which embeds the use of regulatory best practice principles and promotes a culture aimed at reducing the burden of regulation across Government.

We encourage those individuals, businesses and industries impacted by red tape and regulation to contact the OBPR on 07 3222 0555 or obpr.publiccomments@qca.org.au.

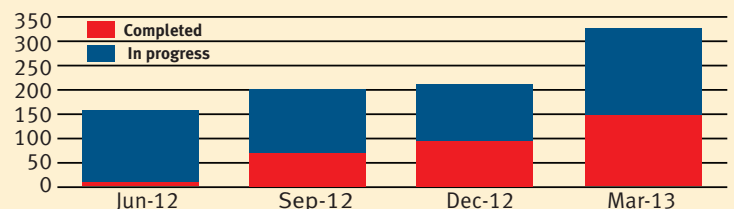
Hon Tim Nicholls MP
Treasurer and Minister for Trade

Deb Frecklington MP
Assistant Minister for Finance
Administration and Regulatory Reform

Achievements in past 12 months

- Established Office of Best Practice Regulation:
 - Greater rigour for Regulatory Impact Statements (RIS) system.
 - Conducts independent reviews of regulatory issues.
- Developed Australia's most rigorous Framework for Reducing the Regulatory Burden.
- Over 300 red tape reduction initiatives have been implemented or are underway, which have delivered benefits for key sectors and across all sectors including:
 - Significantly reducing (from 3,800 to around 280) provisions that impose criminal liability on directors for corporate fault, increasing certainty for company directors.
- Streamlining the approvals process for all Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs), saving on average \$20,000 in application costs, 150 pages of paperwork and 68 days processing time.
- Reduced the number of ERAs, saving small and medium businesses over \$6 million in annual fees.
- Enhancing the Government's web portal for businesses and implementing the Australian Business Licence and Information Service so small business can save time and money through easier access to information on all three levels of Governments' regulatory requirements.
- Removed Waste Levy of \$35 per tonne on most waste streams, saving business approximately \$7 million per month.

Number of red tape reduction initiatives in Queensland



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 Government has also delivered on its promise to create the independent Office of Best Practice Regulation to help drive the Government's regulatory reform agenda.

Key reforms (as at March 2013)

Agriculture

- Removed ERA requirements for intensive animal feedlotting, pig keeping, and mushroom growing substrate manufacturing.
- Establishment of a new Horticulture Industry Development Group to drive the prosperity of the Queensland horticulture sector by, among other things, identifying regulatory obstacles.
- Making improvements to fisheries' self-assessable codes relating to development approvals, such as those for culverts.
- Streamlined the vegetation management framework - to allow landholders to undertake routine management activities such as vegetation thinning, weed control, fodder harvesting and clearing of vegetation encroachment without the need to regularly apply for permits.
- Removal of land and water management plans for the *Water Act*, saving businesses paperwork and compliance costs of over \$6 million annually.
- Removing requirement for Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) assessment for piggery, poultry and egg production.

Tourism

- Established Tourism Investment Attraction Unit to cut red tape impeding tourism projects in planning and other processes.
- Improved access for tourism and ecotourism operators in national parks and reduced permit classes by 50 per cent.
- A 75 per cent reduction in financial paperwork for commercial operators in national parks by requiring quarterly (as opposed to monthly) invoicing and returns, benefiting approximately 480 operators.
- Establishment of a red tape reduction panel and release of discussion paper on liquor licensing, gaming, trading hours, and noise restriction laws. Changes include scrapping employee gaming licenses, which previously had to be renewed every five years for \$215; and removing advertising requirements for liquor and gaming applications, saving businesses up to \$150.
- Amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* to cut red tape for tourism investment and streamline applications for remaining permits.

Major projects, construction and development

- Establishment of a taskforce to fast track approvals processes, with a 43 point action plan to reduce assessment times by 50 per cent.
- Amended the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* to expand the work a plumber or drainer can perform without the need for local government permits or mandatory inspections, saving plumbers and their clients up to \$25 million annually on fees for kitchen and bathroom renovations alone.
- Removal of sustainability declarations in real estate sale contracts.
- Changes to the Sustainable Planning Act to reduce the time needed to obtain development approvals, including: a reduction in referral triggers meaning 1,500 fewer referrals per year in the Integrated Development Assessment System; and the establishment of a single State Assessment and Referral Agency for development applications.
- Removal of requirements for rainwater tanks, six-star energy ratings, and electric hot water systems, saving up to \$5,000 on the cost of a new home.

Resources

- Creation of a special Cabinet Committee to examine the impacts of government regulation to lower the industry's cost structures.
- Significant reforms for small miners. Removal of the Environmental Authority requirement means operators no longer need to make an application, pay application and annual fees or comply with ongoing requirements such as annual returns.
- Modernising the tenure administration system and reducing the time taken for each tenure decision under the Streamlining Approvals Project.
- Streamlining rules for managing and transporting water and brine produced by the CSG and LNG industries.
- Reduced the need for complex Strategic Cropping Land (SCL) assessments and fees for certain resource activities that have a temporary and low risk impact on SCL.
- My Mines Online allows companies to make online applications for exploration permits, reducing paperwork.

Program for next 12 months

Key reforms Include:

- Working with small business to review the impact of the national workplace health and safety laws that commenced in January 2012.
- Reducing, across all agencies, reporting obligations for businesses and the not-for-profit sector.
- Reviewing priority areas identified by the OBPR in its report on reducing the regulatory burden.
- OBPR to set red tape reduction targets for agencies and deliver its first annual report on the Government's progress in reducing red tape.

- Establish a permanent mechanism within OBPR for business and community to raise red tape issues.
- Commence working with local government on reducing red tape in local government regulation.
- Phased introduction of national e-conveyancing, which will remove the need for paper-based conveyancing transactions and physical attendance at settlement.
- Responding to recommendations made by the Parliamentary Inquiries into Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme and Building Services Authority.

- Introduce legislation to implement red tape reduction for liquor and gaming.
- Commence a review of Queensland's property legislation.
- Streamline quality standards for non-government organisations.
- Implement simplified land management agreements for pastoral leases.

For queries about the Report Card please contact: Regulatory Reform at rrb@treasury.qld.gov.au

To raise regulatory issues please contact: OBPR at obpr.publiccomments@qca.org.au, 3222 0555.