



THE HON. JOE TRIPODI MP
MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Red Tape Reform delivered

October 29, 2008

Regulatory Reform Minister Joe Tripodi said the NSW State Government has delivered on its promise to cut red tape with 128 reforms implemented in the last 18 months.

Mr Tripodi today released the Better Regulation Office report - *Annual Update: Removing Red Tape in NSW* - which outlines the Government's performance in slashing red tape across the state.

"The annual report showcases 128 reforms that will ease the red tape burden in a broad range of sectors and help stimulate investment in NSW," Mr Tripodi said.

"The NSW Government has reinvigorated its approach to cutting red tape.

"Government agencies are responding to calls to minimise red tape and, for the first time, regulatory reforms undertaken across all departments have been collated into a single report that clearly shows the benefits of these reforms.

"The results are impressive and demonstrate beyond doubt the Government is delivering on its promise to cut red tape," Mr Tripodi said.

The Better Regulation Office has focused on following up implementation of the 74 red tape recommendations made by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in October 2006.

IPART recommended 16 reforms to regulatory processes, such as better gatekeeping, consultation and risk-assessment, as well 58 specific reforms across a range of policy areas. Thirty seven recommendations have now been implemented.

All 16 reforms that are the responsibility of the Regulatory Reform Minister have been implemented after tools were made available online to assist Government agencies to assess risk and measure the cost of regulatory proposals.

Other key achievements include simplification of shop trading hours, streamlined arrangements for Government procurement of consultancy services, and more consistent requirements between states for workers' compensation insurance.

"The NSW Government is committed to finishing the job by implementing all IPART's recommendations," Mr Tripodi said.

A copy of the full annual report and six monthly updates are available at www.betterregulation.nsw.gov.au.

REFORMS INCLUDE:

Benefits to the NSW Film industry:

- Reduction in compliance costs and improved certainty, consistency and transparency in the approval processes.
- Savings could be up to \$5 million over five years.
- Less red tape could lead to increased investment with an anticipated additional investment of \$540 million over five years.

Payroll Tax initiatives:

- An estimated 8,000 businesses that operate in both NSW and Victoria will benefit from an agreement between NSW and Victoria to harmonise payroll tax definitions.
- A typical business could save \$1,462 per year from switching to common payroll forms, consistent grouping provisions and other administrative functions that are no longer duplicated in the two states.
- A small firm could save as much as \$4,016 per year.

Media Contact: Kate Sullivan (02) 9228 5451 or 0438 719 440