




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

---

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Red-Tape Reduction**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.26 pm): In the lead-up to the 2012 election campaign, the Newman government made a commitment to reduce red tape by 20 per cent, knowing that for too long Queensland businesses had been burdened by Labor governments with excessive and overly bureaucratic regulation. If I recall correctly, the number was something like 90,000 pages of red tape.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** It is 92,000; I thank the Minister for Small Business for informing me of it. A CCIQ survey released earlier this week revealed 72 per cent of Queensland business owners believed red-tape compliance has a moderate to major impact on their businesses. This is simply not good enough. That is why we are creating an environment that makes it easier—not harder—for the entrepreneurs of our state to conduct business. Shortly after coming to government we set up the Office of Best Practice Regulation within the Queensland Competition Authority—a favourite of the Attorney-General's—to advise on regulatory issues and provide a rigorous and transparent approach to making and reviewing regulation—another favourite of the Attorney-General's.

Last Monday as part of Queensland Small Business Week, the Newman government outlined its response to the OBPR's final report on measuring and reducing the burden of red tape. The response clearly sets out the government's agenda, not only for reviewing and removing unnecessary red tape but the considerations that go into the introduction of new regulation. Of the 50 recommendations made by the OBPR in the report, the government has chosen to support either in part or in full all but one recommendation. A reduction target for each portfolio will now be included in the key performance indicators of directors-general. The government also supports the recommendation that the OBPR publishes an annual report on the government's progress in reducing the regulatory burden. This is important because it gives the Queensland community a chance to track our progress and see if we are as good as our word. Perhaps most importantly the government has accepted the recommendation that the overall regulatory objectives should be to achieve a net public benefit.

Contrast this to Labor's approach to red tape. During the 2007 election, Kevin Rudd promised that for every new regulation an old regulation would be removed. In six years, the federal Labor government has introduced 21,000 new regulations on Australian businesses and communities. In return, it has abolished just 1,000. We are setting the example. We are doing it across all areas—vegetation management, small business and also approvals for environmentally relevant activities. But there is much more work to be done. We are determined to strike the right balance to ensure that Queensland businesses and communities have the right opportunity to make things work. I conclude by thanking the member for Nanango, the Assistant Minister for Finance, Administration and

Regulatory Reform, all my colleagues and the departments in their efforts to achieve what will, I am sure, be a great result for a great state with great opportunity.