

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 1450**

**Asked on 7 October 2009**

**MR MCLINDON ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MR FRASER)—**

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Treasurer provide the strategy for reforming the top-heavy 93 government departments, offices and agencies involved in business regulation along with the 70,000 pages of red tape in Queensland (outlining any areas for alleviating this burden; particularly for small businesses such as those in the Beaudesert Electorate)?

### **ANSWER:**

This Government is committed to continuing to drive the regulatory reform agenda in Queensland. We will pursue this task by reducing barriers to trade and commerce between Queensland and the rest of the country and by reducing the regulatory burden on Queensland business, community and government.

Queensland has agreed to participate in the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) new regulatory reform agenda for reducing the costs of regulation and enhancing workforce mobility and productivity in areas of shared Commonwealth, State and Territory responsibility. We strongly support this ambitious agenda which includes reform in 36 regulatory areas.

While the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Reform Agenda is aimed at supporting the development of a seamless national economy, a strong state regulatory reform agenda that delivers productivity benefits to Queensland business, community and government is critical to the State's continued competitiveness.

Queensland's Smart Regulation Reform Agenda seeks to put in place a 'smart' regulatory environment that focuses on productivity, innovation and competitiveness and supports better economic, social and environmental outcomes for Queensland.

This Agenda builds on previous reform work by tackling the quantity of existing regulatory stock and the quality of future regulation simultaneously. Key to this is the elimination of unnecessary and excessive regulatory requirements and the streamlining of the remaining areas of legislation and processes where possible, while preserving or strengthening community safeguards and protections with best practice regulation.

The Smart Regulation Reform Agenda is a five point action plan comprising the following key actions:

1. This Government will reduce the existing stock of Regulation through a phased program of reviews by agencies of their existing stock of regulation.

We will also continue active support for the COAG agenda and harmonisation efforts in agreed Business Regulation and Competition reform areas.

2. This Government will improve the quality of new regulation by introducing a streamlined, more rigorous and harmonised legislative processes. This system will provide better measurement and understanding of the regulatory impacts on both business and the community.
3. We will augment the Business – Government interface by enhancing access to government information and by improving support and consultation with stakeholders.
4. The Government will measure and report annually on progress with the Reform Agenda at state and national levels in the *Smart Regulation Annual Report*

The Smart Regulation Reform Agenda will deliver measurable benefits to business, community and government. To drive achievement of real outcomes the Government is committed to reducing the compliance burden to business and administrative burden to government by \$150 million by 2012-13.

In addition to the Regulatory Reform Agenda, we have moved to restructure the Queensland Public Service by streamlining 23 stand-alone government departments into 13. These 13 departments are further grouped into 6 clusters of similar or complimentary departments to allow better coordination of services.

This multi-faceted approach will be of particular benefit to areas such as Beaudesert and to regional Queensland, where agencies are developing methods of more effective and efficient integrated service delivery.

For example, the Department of Communities is creating better pathways for clients accessing the services provided by both Government and non-government through its “no wrong door” policy. Many of the department’s clients receive concurrent services from two or more of the agencies that now comprise the one Department of Communities. As it is rolled out, the “no wrong door” approach will identify ways to provide whole of agency responses.