



Reducing the Regulatory Burden on Business

Regulation
Taskforce

Circular No. 1
25 October 2005

Call for Submissions and Issues Paper

On the 12 October 2005, the Prime Minister and Treasurer announced the establishment of a taskforce to identify practical options for alleviating the compliance burden on business from government regulation. The Taskforce is to report to them by 31 January 2006.

The Taskforce's brief

The Taskforce has been asked to examine and report on areas where regulatory reform can provide significant immediate gains to business.

Its tasks include to:

- identify specific areas of Commonwealth Government regulation which are unnecessarily burdensome, complex, redundant or duplicate regulations in other jurisdictions;
- indicate those areas in which regulation should be removed or significantly reduced as a matter of priority;
- examine non-regulatory options (including business self-regulation) for achieving desired outcomes and how best to reduce duplication and increase harmonisation within existing regulatory frameworks; and
- provide practical options for alleviating the Commonwealth's 'red tape' burden on business, including family-run and other small businesses.

The Taskforce members and secretariat

The Taskforce will be chaired by Gary Banks, Chairman of the Productivity Commission. The other Taskforce members are Dick Humphry, the former Managing Director of the Australian Stock Exchange, Rod Halstead, a corporate law expert with Clayton Utz, and Angela MacRae, a consultant to Small Business and Chairman of the Independent Contractors of Australia.

The Taskforce is supported by a small whole-of-government secretariat located in Canberra. It is led by Sue Weston (Head of Office of Small Business, Australian Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources).

Public participation in the work of the Taskforce

The Taskforce has been asked to consult closely with business groups and other stakeholders as well as with the Secretaries of the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Any person with an interest in the review is encouraged to make a submission. Given the reporting timeframe, submissions need to be lodged by 22 November 2005 (see below).

In addition, the Taskforce intends to visit a cross-section of representative groups over coming weeks. It also proposes to hold three roundtables covering different areas of regulation during November. The Taskforce will also consult with relevant Australian Government Departments and Agencies and, as appropriate, with State and Territory Governments.

Registration of interest

If you have not already done so, you will need to Register an Interest by completing Attachment A to this circular. Return the attachment by fax or mail to the address provided or provide your contact details by email (see below).

Notification of subsequent developments

The Taskforce will send further circulars and other information only to those who register an interest. Updates about the activities and work of the Taskforce will be posted on the Regulation Taskforce home page at www.regulationtaskforce.gov.au.

Making a submission

To assist you in the preparation of your submission, the Taskforce has prepared a brief Issues Paper (see Attachment B). The Issues Paper provides further background to the Taskforce and outlines the areas in which it is seeking information from interested parties.

There is no specified format for a submission (for example, it may be in written or audio format). Submissions may range from a short letter or email outlining your views on a particular regulation or group of regulations to a much more substantial document covering a range of issues. The Taskforce has been asked to develop practical solutions and to give priority to areas offering significant and immediate gains to business (see Issues Paper).

Submissions may be sent by mail, fax, audio cassette, CD or email. An electronic copy, if not already provided, would be appreciated either by email or disk. The electronic version should be a text document (.txt, .rtf), a Microsoft Word document (.doc) or similar text format, rather than Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf), to ensure screen readers can read it. The Taskforce uses Word XP, but can accept a range of formats.

Please ensure that the sent version of your submission is the final version and that you have removed any drafting notes, track changes, annotations and other hidden text and marked revisions. Please also remove any internal links and large logos and decorative graphics (to keep file sizes down) so that submissions can be easily viewed and downloaded from the Taskforce website.

Submissions may be sent by mail, fax or email:

By mail: Regulation Taskforce
PO Box 282
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

By fax: 02 6240 3389

By email: info@regulationtaskforce.gov.au

If you do not receive notification of receipt of an email message you have sent to the Taskforce within two working days of sending, please contact the Administrative Officer (see below).

Submissions need to be lodged no later than Tuesday 22 November 2005.

Public availability of submissions

The Taskforce will make all submissions available to interested parties on receipt. Submissions will become publicly available documents once placed on the Taskforce's website.

The Taskforce would like to have as much information as possible available for public scrutiny. However, commercial information of a genuinely confidential nature will not be made publicly available. Such information should be provided under a separate cover and clearly marked 'COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE'.

Further information

For further information about the Taskforce and its work contact:

On administrative matters: Vickii Wales Ph: 02 6240 3380

For other matters: Scott Kompo-Harms..... Ph: 02 6240 3384



Australian Government
Regulation Taskforce

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

Regulation Taskforce

To register your interest please complete and return this form to:

Regulation Taskforce
PO Box 282
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

OR

By facsimile (fax) to: 02 6240 3389

You can also register your interest online at the inquiry home page:
www.regulationtaskforce.gov.au

(Please print details)

Organisation:

Street address:

Suburb/City:

State & P'code:

Postal address:

Suburb/City:

State & P'code:

(Please indicate Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, etc)

Principal contact:

Phone:

Position:

Fax:

Email address:

Mobile:

Please tick the appropriate box/es:

- I intend to make a submission to the Taskforce
- I would like to be kept informed about developments through further circulars.

Information (such as circulars) will generally be distributed via post.

Please indicate if you would prefer material in an alternative format:

- email with electronic copy of documents attached
- large print documents
- other (please specify)

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