

# Cutting Red Tape on Small Business

## Real Action on Red Tape

The Liberal Party wants to make Victoria a great place to start up and run a small business. After the election we will take immediate action to create a better environment for these businesses to grow and develop.

A Liberal Government will establish a Victorian Regulatory Reform Commission (VRRRC) – put simply, its job will be to cut red tape. It will replace the current Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission, and will have the following advantages over this body:

- It will be truly independent – not subject to ministerial direction in conducting its inquiries.
- It will be more focused – with a clear brief to reduce the burden of regulation.
- It will be properly resourced – with the ability to recruit its own staff.
- It will be required to table all reports in Parliament within 25 days of them being passed to the relevant Minister.

As a first step we will ask the VRRRC to do the following:

- Establish clear targets for reducing regulations on business (e.g. reducing the cost of compliance by 10 per cent over three years).
- Make the existing Regulatory Impact Statement system more effective (e.g. by ensuring greater compliance with this system by government).

## Cutting Unnecessary Regulations

The Liberal Party has consulted with business and devised a list of 10 regulations that are the most intrusive and time consuming for small business:

1. *Child Employment Act 2003* – forcing relatives to undergo a police check before young family members can help in the family business.
2. *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* – unlimited right of entry to a small business for union representatives.
3. Planning Schemes – forcing farmers to ask government staff to inspect and approve the removal of rabbit warrens if they are near native vegetation.
4. *Public Holidays and Shop Trading Reform Acts (Amendment) Act 2003* – re-regulating Easter Sunday Trading.
5. *Outworkers (Improved Protection) Act 2003* – giving delegated authority to a union to prosecute using the current outworkers legislation.
6. *Federal Awards (Uniform System) Act 2003* – access for government inspectors to any Victorian workplace.
7. *Seafood Safety Act 2003* – increased cost of licensing fees for the aquaculture industry.
8. *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* – increased company and company officer liability in occupational health and safety and consumer affairs legislation.
9. *Food (Amendment) Act 2001* – unnecessary new layers of red tape and compliance on the food and hospitality industries.
10. *Road Safety (Heavy Vehicles Safety) Act 2003* – wider responsibility for breaches in road laws.

The VRRRC will, as a priority, draw up legislative plans to either scrap these regulations or reform them to ease the burden on small business.

## Cost

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Cost	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Authorised and Printed by Julian Sheezel, 104 Exhibition Street, Melbourne 3000.