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MEDIA RELEASE

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FIRST CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS MR BRACKS

Steve Bracks has taken it upon himself to call for national economic reform, including a 25 per cent cut in red tape for small businesses, but ironically it is the Bracks Government's own unworkable laws and over regulation that are sending small and medium businesses to the wall right across Victoria.

During every Parliamentary session the Bracks Government uses its majority in both houses to ram through legislation for more red tape and onerous compliance obligations for businesses.

Last week, the Bracks Government passed new legislation to regulate owner drivers to define them as employees and to provide greater access to the transport industry by the Transport Workers Union.

Victoria has already been saddled with unworkable child employment laws, changes to long service leave and the draconian occupational health and safety laws that provide unions with unfettered rights of entry.

The bureaucracy obsessed Bracks Government is responsible for the copious amounts of red tape and excessive taxes that are crippling businesses and driving new investment and jobs out of Victoria.

Instead of meddling in the national economy, a good starting point for Steve Bracks would be to scrap the red tape and reduce state taxes and levies, particularly land tax and the new land tax on family trusts.

The Liberal Party has a policy - *Cutting Red Tape on Small Business*, to stop the strangulation and breathe life back into small businesses. (policy attached)

As part of this policy, a Liberal Government will establish a Victorian Regulatory Reform Commission (VRRC) that will draw up legislative plans to either scrap or reform the 10 most intrusive and time consuming regulations for small business. This will go some way to reversing some of the damage Labor has inflicted.

In the meantime, someone should remind Steve Bracks that he is the Premier of Victoria and before he seeks to wander across the national stage on red tape and tax reform, he should clean up his own backyard.

Steve Bracks must cut the regulations and onerous compliance obligations that are crippling small and medium business owners and provide them with adequate tax relief.

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