



# MEDIA RELEASE

**SENATOR PENNY WONG**

Minister for Finance and Deregulation

**SENATOR NICK SHERRY**

Minister for Small Business

Minister Assisting on Deregulation and  
Public Sector Superannuation

Minister Assisting on Tourism

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## WORK BEGINS ON FUTURE REFORM AGENDA TO CUT RED TAPE

COAG's Business Regulation and Competition Working Group met in Canberra today to continue to drive progress in delivering the Seamless National Economy reform agenda, and begin identifying the next round of reforms to cut red tape.

The Working Group was co-chaired by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, Senator Penny Wong, and Minister Assisting on Deregulation, Senator Nick Sherry.

The Working Group meeting, involving high-level State, Territory and New Zealand officials, was preceded by a stakeholder forum attended by representatives from business, unions and community groups.

"The stakeholder forum was an opportunity to share views on how the existing Seamless National Economy agenda is progressing and for initial input on what other areas to target for future regulatory reform," Senator Wong said.

BRCWG reviewed progress with the delivery of remaining Seamless National Economy reforms, and agreed to a timetable for developing the future regulatory reform agenda. It initially includes:

1. Seeking written submissions from stakeholders on specific reform targets
2. Preparing a consultation paper based on stakeholder feedback and input from the Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments
3. Holding a series of stakeholder forums to discuss reform options

"The Seamless National Economy agenda is a key element of the Gillard Government's microeconomic reform agenda to increase productivity, strengthen the economy and create jobs," Senator Wong said.

"The Gillard Government looks forward to working with the States and Territories to deliver this agenda by the new completion date of December next year - 6 months ahead of schedule."

So far, 13 out of 27 of the Seamless National Economy reforms have been completed and strong progress is continuing with the implementation of key reforms such as the National Construction Code and a national system for the licensing of tradespeople.

"The 27 Seamless National Economy reforms are vital to ensuring the Australian economy remains competitive, but reform should never stop and so it's essential we start mapping out the direction of future reform efforts now," Senator Sherry said.

"We are particularly keen to hear stakeholder views on specific areas which should be considered as part of a future regulatory reform agenda.

“We want to hear their ideas and we want to work with them as partners in the development of the next wave of reforms to cut red tape and help drive economic growth.

“These future reforms could either build on current COAG regulatory reforms or be in entirely new areas.

“We will be consulting throughout the year and are also involving the Productivity Commission in assessing the merits of reform proposals.”

Initial submissions are sought by Thursday 21 April and can be provided in one of the following ways.

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| <p><i>In writing to:</i></p> <p><b>BRCWG Co-Chairs</b><br/>Commonwealth Minister for Finance and Deregulation,<br/>Senator the Hon Penny Wong</p> <p>Commonwealth Minister Assisting on Deregulation and<br/>Public Sector Superannuation, Senator the Hon Nick<br/>Sherry</p> <p>Parliament House<br/>Canberra, ACT, 2600</p> | <p><i>By e-mail to:</i></p> <p><b>The BRCWG Secretariat</b><br/><a href="mailto:BRCWGS@finance.gov.au">BRCWGS@finance.gov.au</a></p> |
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CANBERRA

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**Media contacts:** Laura Anderson (Wong) 0411 143 111  
Joe Scavo (Sherry) 0413 800 757