



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

Minister for Small Business
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation
Minister Assisting on Tourism

MOVING CLOSER TO A SEAMLESS NATIONAL ECONOMY

COAG's Seamless National Economy agenda is making strong progress towards delivering streamlined and simplified national regulation in 27 areas, the Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Co-chair of COAG's Business Regulation and Competition Working Group, Senator Nick Sherry, said today.

"Today's meeting of COAG has again confirmed that Australia is moving closer to a Seamless National Economy," Senator Sherry said.

"In fact, COAG has today recognised the 14th completed reform on the Seamless National Economy agenda, that of uniform food regulation.

"With the rolling out of food regulation reforms from the first of July, 14 of the 27 regulatory reforms under the National Partnership to Deliver a Seamless National Economy have been completed.

"These reforms have significant benefits for the economy and for business - the Department of Finance and Deregulation estimates that 10 of the 27 reforms are worth about \$3.5 billion per year to the economy as a whole, with \$1.8 billion of this flowing to business."

"This is the most comprehensive national regulatory reform initiative since National Competition Policy was initiated by the Keating Government and is a key component of the Gillard Government strategy to lift productivity."

Personal property securities reforms are due to be operational by the end of October and all States and Territories are on track to have harmonised Occupational Health and Safety regulations in place by the first of January.

A number of other major reforms are currently being implemented, including a national system for trades licensing, a vital reform which will make a major contribution to improving workforce mobility across our nation.

"Just this week, the Gillard Government introduced legislation into the Commonwealth Parliament to deliver a national business names registration system," Senator Sherry said.

"Businesses will only have to apply once to register their business name nationally and only pay one fee of around \$70 for a 3 year registration – a saving of around a thousand dollars.

"The implementation of these reforms is a result of strong and effective cooperation between the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories.

"I look forward to this productive approach continuing, so the benefits of remaining reforms start flowing as soon as possible," Senator Sherry said.

More information about the Seamless National Economy reforms, including the BRCWG Report Card on Progress of Deregulation Priorities is available at <http://www.coag.gov.au/>

CANBERRA

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