



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

COAG AFFIRMS NATIONAL REGULATORY REFORM AGENDA

Regulatory reforms to cut business red tape and boost productivity across the nation have been affirmed at today's COAG meeting.

Key issues such as infrastructure project approvals and workforce mobility have also been identified to form the central pillars of the next wave of reform.

In February this year, COAG commissioned its Business Regulation and Competition Working Group to develop options for a future regulatory reform agenda.

The key themes that have emerged through the consultation process and may feature in the next wave of reform are:

- Enhancing workforce mobility
- Improving sectoral competitiveness
- Measures to ensure the benefits of national reform are maintained over time

COAG also agreed to the need for major reform of environmental regulation across all levels of government to reduce regulatory burden and duplication for business, which will form part of the next tranche of the Seamless National Economy agenda.

Minister for Finance and Deregulation Senator Penny Wong said cutting red tape was vital to drive productivity and economic growth, and address the key competitive challenges facing Australian business.

Senator Wong welcomed COAG's ongoing commitment to an ambitious future regulatory reform agenda, and said this work would build on the significant achievements to date under COAG's Seamless National Economy National Partnership.

"Combined with the Government's significant investments in skills, education and critical infrastructure like the NBN, the new reform agenda will assist in promoting productivity," Senator Wong said.

Minister Assisting on Deregulation, Senator Nick Sherry, welcomed COAG's commitment and said the Commonwealth, States and Territories each played a key role in developing a comprehensive reform agenda.

"According to the OECD, Australia is one of the front-running countries in the OECD in terms of our regulatory reform practices, but this is no time for complacency," Senator Sherry said.

“National regulatory reform is a priority for the Gillard Government and we are committed to working with the States and Territories to maintain reform momentum.”

The BRCWG will hold further consultation rounds with business and other key stakeholders in the coming months.

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