**RED TAPE REFORMS**

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| **Reform** | **Summary** | |
| **Building and Construction** | | |
| Roof plumbing | Currently the construction of metal roofs is confined to plumbers. This reform will allow both registered builders and plumbers to construct metal roofs, allowing businesses to most efficiently allocate resources with plumbers still ensuring that construction of a roof complies with the Plumbing Regulations 2008. | |
| Building complaints | Currently complaints about domestic building projects invoke a resolution process shared by Consumer Affairs Victoria and the Victorian Building Authority. This reform will give the Victorian Building Authority sole responsibility for domestic building complaint resolution reducing delays and increasing certainty for businesses. | |
| Wall height | Currently a report and consent from a local council is required to construct a wall on or near a boundary with a maximum average height above 3.0m. This reform increases the allowable average height to 3.2 metres which will reduce the number of fences requiring approval by council and costs and delays associated with this process. The current maximum wall height of 3.6 metres will remain unchanged | |
| Builders defects in commercial buildings | Currently commercial builders must have defects insurance as a condition of registration. This reform removes this requirement reducing insurance and administrative costs and recognising that commercial building owners have the capability to manage their own risks of building. | |
| Wall setback | Currently special requirements apply to a wall that is setback from a boundary by 150mm or less. This reform will amend dwelling building standards to increase the allowable setback of a wall on a boundary from 150mm to 200mm reducing the number of houses that will require council consents and costs and delays associated with this process. | |
| Testing of geosynthetic products | Currently the requirements around testing requirements for geosynthetic and geotextile products are complex and unclear. This reform will clarify those requirements, specifically which international and manufacturer tests will be accepted as equivalent to Australian tests, reducing costs and delays for building projects. | |
| Caravan annex construction | Currently all caravan owners wishing to build an annex within a caravan park require a planning permit. This reform will remove that requirement (subject to exemption on the grounds of size or natural hazard presence) reducing costs and delays. | |
| Building permit signing | Currently building permits must be signed by the assigned relevant surveyor. This reform will introduce more flexible arrangements such as allowing another qualified surveyor, authorised by the relevant surveyor, to sign the permit in their absence. Corporations will also be permitted to act as a relevant building surveyor, reducing costs and delays and increasing flexibility. | |
| **Farming and fishing** | | |
| Wildlife control (kangaroos) | Currently the application process for a permit to control wildlife including kangaroos is complex and time consuming. This reform will modernise the permit application process reducing costs and delays. | |
| Farm machinery crossing railways | Currently all vehicles and machinery with a width over 3m require a permit to cross a railway. This reform will increase the width dimension for vehicles and machinery that may cross a railway without a permit from 3 metres to 5 metres. It will also minimise the instances when infrastructure operator attendance at such crossings is required reducing the number of businesses who need to apply for permits and associated costs and delays. | |
| 1080 on site baits | Currently regulations covering the manufacture of fresh meat baits require manufacturing facilities to be at a fixed address. The two Victorian manufacturing sites are in Melbourne and Bairnsdale. This reform will facilitate mobile manufacture of 1080 baits in Victoria reducing transport and manufacture costs. | |
| Stock crossing of arterial roads | Currently the system for stock crossings on arterial roads is complex and confusing. This reform will clarify which authority is responsible for stock crossing decisions on which roads, how stock crossing opportunities are accommodated, permit requirements, permit processes and the decision making criteria. | |
| Native vegetation offsets | Current native vegetation offsetting rules are inflexible. This reform will establish new native vegetation offsetting rules and changes to the way the offset market functions making meeting offset obligations more straight forward and reducing delays. | |
| **Mining and other resources** | | |
| Crown land used for vegetation rehabilitation | Currently native vegetation offsets for private land clearing can be sourced only on private land. Offsets on crown land are extremely limited. This reform will facilitate native vegetation offsetting on public land making it cheaper and easier for businesses to meet their native vegetation offsetting obligations. | |
| Bonds for land rehabilitation by instalment | Current rehabilitation bond requirements for mining licence or extractive industry work authority holders are inflexible requiring 100% bonds upfront. This reform will allow for reduced rehabilitation bonds of up to 50% during the start-up phase of new mining and quarrying projects, when the risk of default is low and additional liability to the Government is minimal. It will also institute a cash bond system for individual bonds up to $10,000 as an alternative to bank guarantees in appropriate circumstances reducing costs and barriers to entry in the mining and extractives sectors. | |
| Return of bonds for land rehabilitation | The current process for rehabilitation bond return in the mining and extractives sector is protracted. This reform will streamline the bond return process to Victorian mining/quarrying operators to ensure that bonds are returned as soon as possible following the successful conclusion of landowner consultation. | |
| Mining information online | Currently administration of mining exploration licences is paper based. This reform will transition mining application and reporting systems to an online format including enabling online searches for existing licences and online applications for new licences. | |
| Tourism and transport |  | |
| TPI veterans travel pass | Currently the application process for travel passes for veterans is complex and protracted. This reform will progress formal arrangements with the Department of Veterans Affairs to simplify the travel pass application process for Totally Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) and Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) veterans streamlining the process. |
| Metro trains compensation | Currently in order to access compensation if Metro’s performance standards for service delivery or punctuality are not met in any month an eligible customer must download, complete a form, and post it to Metro. This reform will provide for online applications for customers seeking compensation. |
| Segway tours | Currently vehicle registration provisions prevent businesses from operating Segway tours in Victoria. This reform will allow tour businesses to apply for a permit to conduct Segway tours around tourist attractions on the perimeter of Melbourne City. |
| Motor vehicles and other machinery | |
| Used car sale forms | Currently there are complex requirements governing the information which must be displayed in a notice affixed to a used car or motorcycle that is offered for sale by a motor car trader. This reform will simplify and consolidate those requirements into a single form. |
| Vehicle Identification Number | Currently a form affixed to a used car or motorcycle for sale must include an engine number. This reform will remove that requirement in recognition of the fact that a vehicle identification number is already provided. |
| Car prices on advertisements | Currently a motor car trader’s advertisement for sale of a used car must include the following information “the cash price of the motor car followed by the statement “not including stamp duty and transfer fees.” This reform will remove the requirement that pricing information be provided in that specific format in recognition of the clarity in pricing legislation which already applies. |
| Trade plates | Currently licensed motor car trader (LMCT) assigned a trade plate must keep a record for seven years of each vehicle using a trade plate; the name and address of each person who used the vehicle; the time , date and location of that use, and; be able to produce the record to a police officer or authorised person. This reform will remove that reporting requirement. |
| Hospitality and entertainment | |
| Under age venues | Currently licensees must obtain approval to hold alcohol-free underage and mix-aged live music events on licensed premises. This reform will remove that requirement. |
| Hotels administrative inspections | Currently hotels may be subjected to multiple unannounced compliance inspections by various agencies responsible for aspects of gambling and liquor regulation. This reform will develop a coordinated approach between Victoria Police and the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) for unannounced and planned compliance inspections for gambling and liquor licensees, reducing costs and use of staff time. |
| Liquor licence wording | Currently wording of liquor licences lacks standardisation. This reform will introduce more standardised wording and contemporary conditions for liquor licences. |
| Liquor licence police checks | Currently only a NPC issued by Victoria Police is acceptable, or for applicants who have lived overseas for more than 12 months over the preceding 10, an NPC from the overseas jurisdiction, to gain VCGLR approval for officeholders of a gaming licensee company. This reform will deem a national police certificate (NPC) offered by the Australian Federal Police to be acceptable reducing costs and delays. |
| Temporary liquor licences | Currently a temporary limited liquor licence application must be lodged at least 8 weeks before an event. This reform will streamline the approval process for temporary liquor licences and examine the feasibility of introducing a notification process for repeat and low risk events run by licensees with a sound reputation. |
| Small live music | Currently small live music venues wishing to undertake work to adapt or renovate to host live |
| Variation to liquor licences | Currently a variation to a liquor licence must be accompanied by a planning permit; or a letter from a local council that a planning permit is not required. This reform will remove the obligation to supply a “permit not required” letter for a licence variation that does not involve planning permit issues. |
| Doing business with government | |
| Prequalification reform | Currently prequalification for contractors across state agencies and local councils is uncoordinated. This reform, which is in the early stages of implementation, coordinates prequalification for contractors across state agencies and local councils by establishing a Construction Supplier Register (CSR). The CSR provides for the pre-qualification of tenderers. Currently 20 councils have registered to access the CSR. |
| Contract interpretation | Currently some agencies apply differing interpretations when managing contractual obligations. This reform will encourage government agencies with high contracting activity to adopt consistent specifications and conditions. |
| Other | |
| Estate agent licensing for commercial transactions | Currently agents involved in large commercial property transactions are required to hold a licence under the Estate Agents Act 1980. This reform will remove that requirement. |
| Plastic knives | Currently retailers are not permitted to sell any type of knife to people under the age of 18 years. This includes a plastic picnic knife commonly sold in supermarkets. This reform will amend the *Control of Weapons Act 1990* to exempt the sale of plastic picnic knives from the provisions of the legislation allowing them to be legally sold to persons under the age of 18 reducing staffing and packaging costs. |
| WorkSafe forms | Currently OHS forms can be accessed from the WorkSafe website and completed online. However, data typed into many of the forms cannot be saved. Many forms therefore are lodged by post. Some forms do not readily print in browser operating systems such as Chrome. This reform will allow the forms to be lodged on line and the information entered into the forms to be saved |