



## Better regulation

Cutting the unnecessary rules that are weighing farmers down in paper work, costing them time and money

On average, each farmer spends 20 days a year caught up in bureaucratic red tape.

Good regulation helps farmers get on with running their businesses. Conversely, unnecessary regulation damages productivity, deters investment, and undermines jobs and growth.

The Government is delivering on its commitment to reduce the burden of regulation by \$1 billion every year. In 2014, we repealed over 10,000 unnecessary and burdensome regulations and over 2,700 Acts of Parliament. This has contributed to removing over \$2.45 billion in red-tape.

We will ensure that the agriculture sector benefits from further reform. **We will ask the Productivity Commission to review regulation imposed on agriculture by all levels of government.**

Real reforms are already making a real difference:

- the **one-stop shop for environmental approvals** is reducing duplication between State, Territory and Commonwealth processes and resulting in swifter decision making; and
- changes to the **Exporter Supply Chain**

**Assurance System**, including reducing the number of audits for facilities with a good performance record, will cut almost \$1.7 million worth of red tape annually.

There are also opportunities for industry to reduce the burden on farmers from industry-imposed standards and red-tape across the supply chain, such as multiple audits for the same or similar quality assurance systems.

## Improving access to farm chemicals

Chemicals and veterinary medicines control pests and weeds and manage the health of animals. Delays in approvals for new chemicals and medicines put our farmers at a disadvantage against their overseas competitors and increases costs.

Feedback from stakeholders flagged that this is an area ripe for reform.

The Government is **streamlining access to agricultural and veterinary chemicals** and better managing the risks these products can pose. Costs and delays for users can be reduced and incentives for registering chemicals in Australia are needed.

Working with industry, the Government will:

- reduce pre-market assessments of low and medium risk products; and
- recognise accredited third parties and trusted overseas regulators' chemical assessments.

These changes will result in around a \$68 million reduction of red tape each year.

Changes are already happening. Since 2014, the Government has reduced the regulation on some animal feeds—reducing compliance costs by over \$7 million each year. We have also improved access to chemicals for minor crops and pests use.

You can help us identify the required reforms and speed up access to newer and safer chemicals at: [www.agriculture.gov.au/agvet](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/agvet)

## Progressing deregulation

As well as the Productivity Commission's review, the Government will keep pushing to reduce regulation impeding the agriculture sector's ability to grow.

The Commonwealth will work with the State and Territory governments to reduce the cost of doing business for farmers.

The Productivity Commission will also review regulations on the marine fisheries and aquaculture industries.

The food and agribusiness sector is also being encouraged to identify unnecessary or over-burdensome regulations. **The Food and Agribusiness Growth Centre** will work with the sector post-farm gate to identify and make recommendations on improvements to local, State, Territory and Commonwealth regulations.

For more information see: [business.gov.au/advice-and-support/IndustryGrowthCentres](http://business.gov.au/advice-and-support/IndustryGrowthCentres)

## Improved country of origin labelling

Our work to **improve country of origin labelling** will address public confusion with labels such as 'Made in Australia' and 'Made in Australia from local and imported ingredients'.

We have answered the overwhelming calls from the public for improved country of origin labelling. The Government's new mandatory labelling scheme will introduce both a symbol and words that clearly identify two things; where a product was made and what proportion of the ingredients in the product are Australian in origin.

The Government wants to meet consumer needs without imposing excessive costs on industry or contravening our international trade obligations. We have consulted widely on possible changes to Australia's country of origin labelling.

### Further Information

- [agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au](http://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au)