CUTTING RED TAPE:
Streamline Business Taskforce NT

Red tape reduction remains a focus of the Northern Territory Government. A Streamline Business Taskforce has been formed to advise on how best to streamline Northern Territory business regulation, cut unnecessary red tape and continue to improve Territory business competitiveness and productivity.

Background

Following the 2004 Review of Business Legislation in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Government introduced a Northern Territory regulation impact assessment framework, reduced business costs by progressively lowering payroll tax, improved access to necessary regulatory and licencing information, and simplified Northern Territory government procurement arrangements.

The recent focus has been on Northern Territory participation in national business reforms, especially those being advanced through the Council of Australian Governments, such as uniform consumer laws, payroll tax harmonisation, national business names registration and online services, nation-wide occupational licencing developments and more. Many of these substantial reforms have been completed and others are progressing towards conclusion.

To ensure that the Northern Territory can capitalise on the national reforms and is able to gear up the economy for growth, particularly with major projects underway and in the pipeline, it is now vital to continue efforts to further cut red tape and eliminate regulation and administrative practices that could impede growth. It is also important to continue to strengthen the regulation impact assessment framework to prevent the growth of regulation not delivering positive public benefit and to streamline regulation assessed to be essential.

The Streamline Business Taskforce has been formed to undertake this important work. The Taskforce will advise on how best to streamline Northern Territory business regulation, cut unnecessary red tape and continue to improve Territory business competitiveness and productivity.

The Territory Government has already moved to cut procurement red tape. From 1 July 2012, new Procurement reforms will make it simpler, easier and fairer for Territory business to win Territory Government work.

Taskforce terms of reference

- identify specific areas of regulation, red tape and associated administrative practices that impede productivity and economic growth and unduly impose costs and resource burdens on business
- provide advice on actions to reduce red tape, simplify and remove duplication in regulation and associated administrative practices, including consideration of non-regulatory options to support business outcomes in the Territory
- assess opportunities to improve the Territory Government’s whole-of-government business interface to further support client-focused operation.
**Taskforce considerations**

- take into account unique Northern Territory factors including the proportion of small business operations and support for businesses in regional and remote areas
- pay particular attention to support business commencements and business growth
- have regard for past and current NT regulatory reform and red tape reduction initiatives and outcomes
- have regard for red tape reduction initiatives in other jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, states, the ACT and New Zealand as part of national action under the COAG Meeting Red Tape Challenge
- have regard for effectiveness and efficiency of the NT processes for developing new and amending existing legislation and associated administrative practices, including regulatory impact assessment, consultation, drafting, Parliamentary practices and steps to implement and review new and amended regulatory requirements.

**Process**

The Taskforce will undertake a consultative process that will include Territory business, Government agencies and other stakeholders.

The taskforce will take a whole-of-government approach led by the Department of Business and Employment. The Secretariat function will be performed by Department of Business and Employment and Department of the Chief Minister.

**Reporting**

The Taskforce will provide interim priority actions within one month.

The final report due to Government by 30 November 2012 will:

- identify actions to reduce regulatory burdens and improve administrative processes
- improve efficiency and effectiveness of NT regulation and regulatory development processes and practices
- recommend actions to prevent the growth of unnecessary regulation and administrative practices in future

**Business Streamline Taskforce Membership - NT**

Department of Business and Employment (Chair)  
Chamber of Commerce  
Master Builders Association  
Urban Development Institute of Australia  
Property Council  
Government Procurement Council  
Business Council  
Minerals Council  
Land Development Corporation  
Power and Water Corporation  
Department of Construction and Infrastructure  
Department of Lands and Planning

**For more information**

To find out more information visit [www.growingnt.nt.gov.au](http://www.growingnt.nt.gov.au) or contact the Department of Business and Employment on 8999 7055.