



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ELECTORAL MATTERS

Reference: MS21-000162

9 MAR 2021

Mr Paul Zalai
Director
APSA/FTA
113 Empire Circuit
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Zalai

I am writing to you seeking your ideas for reforming regulatory burdens that needlessly overlap across regulators, making it harder for business.

The Prime Minister has tasked me with leading the Government's New Deregulation Agenda, a key part of our plan to promote investment and job creation. This is especially important to supporting business to lead the Australian economy out of the COVID-19 recession.

A well-regulated economy helps Australia to prosper, as well as maintaining safeguards for the community and the environment. But we should be doing this at the lowest possible cost to business.

Many businesses need to comply with regulations covering similar activities or goods at the national, state and even international level. My team are looking for areas where one or more level of regulation can be removed or administered in ways which reduce costs to business. Even if more than one regulator must be involved, we should be looking for ways for ways for regulators to coordinate so businesses only have to interact with them once.

One simple example is that arrangements have been in place for some time with most of the states to undertake audit functions for the dairy industry on behalf of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is also partnering with the states, territories and industry to explore new ways of using data to reduce the regulatory burden on business.

There is obviously much more work to do. So I'm seeking your insights on needlessly overlapping regulations and regulatory compliance activity that affect your business – such as where the Commonwealth and states require similar reporting obligations, duplicative approvals or auditing processes. I'm not asking for formal submissions or detailed reports, just real life examples. I would appreciate if you could pass this request on to any colleagues who may be able to share further information.

I've asked the Deregulation Taskforce in the Prime Minister's Department, which reports to me, to make this a priority this year. Please get in touch with the Taskforce by 26 March 2021 at DeregulationOverlappingRegulation@pmc.gov.au to share your stories, concerns and any ideas for reform. If you have any questions, please contact John Burch, Team Leader, Overlapping Regulation, Deregulation Taskforce (John.Burch@pmc.gov.au, (02) 6271 5271).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Morton', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

BEN MORTON