

Estimates Committee 2015
Questions Taken On Notice

(26/05/2015 to 4/06/2015)

Date: 28/05/2015 Output: Opening Statement
Sub Output:
Subject: Red Tape Abolition Squad Initiatives

From: Mr Michael Gunner to Hon Peter Styles
Business

Question: **5-1**
Can the minister please provide a list of the initiatives of the red tape squad. He said there were 200. Could we have a list of initiatives of the red tape squad?

Answer:
Answered On: 16/06/2015

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 28 May 2015 **Output:** 1.3
Subject: Red Tape Abolition Squad
From: Mr Michael Gunner MLA
To: Hon Peter Styles MLA
Agency: Department of Business

Number: 5.1

Question: Can the Minister please provide a list of the initiatives of the Red Tape Squad. He said there were 200. Could we have a list of initiatives of the Red Tape Squad.

Answer:

The Red Tape Abolition Squad was established in the Department of Business in second half of 2014. In October 2014, the Squad mapped all red tape reduction initiatives of all agencies undertaken since September 2012.

As at 28 May 2015, based on the October 2014 mapping exercise (updated where possible), 109 initiatives are complete; 94 are currently underway, of which 45 are in development pending final Cabinet consideration and not yet able to be made public.

At Attachment A is a list of completed red tape reduction initiatives. At Attachment B is a list of red tape reduction activities that are currently underway and in the public domain.

Further details on all initiatives that are complete or underway are accessible on the Department of Business website.

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Improving frontline services to ensure the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) is responsible and relevant to users of its services and information.	AAPA
Development of a new external website.	AAPA
Creating a single, independent more accessible and efficient justice system for civil and administrative appeals with a single appeals tribunal (the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal), replacing approximately 35 boards and tribunals, saving money for business and individuals.	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Removal of duplication regarding safe keeping of client money.	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Abolished vendor disclosure legislation which required homeowners to lodge paperwork before they could sell.	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
The Museum and Art Gallery NT (MAGNT) established a statutory authority, operating under new governance arrangements, which allows business, philanthropic organisations and individuals to directly engage with MAGNT to grow collections and support programs.	Department of Arts and Museums
Arts NT, Screen Territory grant applications have been made available online.	Department of Arts and Museums
Co-location of NT Archives Service and National Archives of Australia in purpose-built building at a new location.	Department of Arts and Museums
Abolished travel agents licence as part of a national reform.	Department of Business
Business Engagement program: providing dedicated Business Client Managers to assist businesses trying to navigate government.	Department of Business
Trade licensing: streamlined workflow processes and reduced processing time by 20 days for Occupational High Risk Licences.	Department of Business
Removed the requirement for applicants applying for a Dangerous Goods Drivers licence to attend MVR by securing access for NT WorkSafe staff to the MOVERS database, saving applicants time and money.	Department of Business

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Licence Commission Reform: established faster licence decision-making by removing the NT Licensing Commission and establishing the Director-General of Licensing.	Department of Business
Business Licence Reform Stage 1: reduced processing times (by up to two days) for licences administered by Licensing NT by progressively allowing licences to be issued over the counter at Territory Business Centres by conferring delegations to Territory Business Centre staff and setting target timeframes for processing.	Department of Business
Facilitated the removal of the moratorium on the issue of takeaway liquor licences.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms Stage 1: reduced the number of procurement tiers from six to five and provided simpler bidding arrangements. This allows more activities to reside on low risk, simpler bidding tools.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms Stage 1: more flexible tender release and closing times. To speed up release and award of contract, tenders are now released and closed on any business day.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms Stage 1: amendments to Standard Conditions of Contract, including capping of contractor's liability, allowing a choice between Territory or contractor owned intellectual property and dispute resolution.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms Stage 1: changes to the role of the Procurement Review Board. Transferred Responsibility for the approval of all stages of the procurement process was transferred to Agency Chief Executives, improving timeframes.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms Stage 1: streamlining internal processes to reduce decision-making times.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms: tender assessment and award timeframe targets.	Department of Business
Government procurement reforms: changes to local content (20%) requirements to reduce time needed for assessment.	Department of Business
Increased funding to the ecoBiz NT (now called Smarter Business Solutions) program to help businesses reduce business costs through technology and improved processes.	Department of Business
Commencement of a Red Tape Reduction Business Advocate who assists individual businesses in relation to application and approvals.	Department of Business
Introduced flexibility to White Card (General Construction Induction) training and centralised database of card holders. Allows training to be completed more quickly, saving time for business and employees.	Department of Business

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Adopted national uniform approach to regulation of co-operatives to remove duplication of effort across state boundaries and duplication of paperwork. Co-operatives now only need to be registered in one jurisdiction.	Department of Business
Workers Compensation reforms including presumptive legislation for career fire fighters, reducing the burden on firefighters with prescribed illnesses.	Department of Business
Extension to Shotfirers Licence term to five years, reducing paperwork.	Department of Business
Reducing Work Health and Safety regulatory burden by removing or simplifying a number of regulations. For example, allowing High Risk Work licences granted in other jurisdictions to be recognised in the Northern Territory.	Department of Business
Development of an outcomes document to streamline the approach to administrative and regulatory requirements under the <i>Northern Territory Employment and Training Act</i> . This improves processing times for registration of training contracts and more efficient servicing for employees and apprentices in remote areas.	Department of Business
Community Gaming reforms including changes to the gaming machine cap to facilitate competition.	Department of Business
Develop and implement systems, processes and relationships for government to effectively engage with Remote Communities.	Department of Local Government and Community
Reduced costs and improved services by introducing an 'invoice portal', known as InvoiceNTG, enabling suppliers to government to submit and monitor invoices electronically. Mobile app also launched.	Department of Corporate and Information Services
Government Procurement: Quotes and Tenders Online enhanced to allow viewing, tracking and lodgement of tenders in one central system.	Department of Corporate and Information Services
Government Procurement: introduced mobile app to access tender opportunities.	Department of Corporate and Information Services
Streamlined print media advertising for job vacancies and contracts and tenders.	Department of Corporate and Information Services

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Online publication of the NT Government Gazette.	Department of the Chief Minister
Established a one stop shop for environmental assessments. Northern Territory and Australian Government assessments now done concurrently.	Department of the Chief Minister
An Investment Guide and Directory produced by the Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment to reduce red tape for companies having to deal with multiple agencies.	Department of the Chief Mnister / Department of Business
Enhancement to the Screening Assessment for Employment - Northern Territory (SAFE NT) application process . Now able to apply online.	Northern Territory Emergency Service
Emergency Management Act replaced the <i>Disasters Act</i> with the endorsement of the Northern Territory Counter Disaster Council.	Northern Territory Emergency Service
Paperless arrests.	Northern Territory Emergency Service
iPad rollout: Police officers able to access vehicle and personal particulars on iPads.	Northern Territory Emergency Service
Condensed eight sets of public health regulations to one set of public and environmental health regulations, streamlining and modernising business compliance.	Department of Health
Simplified requirements for Commercial Visitor Accommodation businesses.	Department of Health
Reduced time and paperwork by providing one registration form for businesses providing multiple services, i.e. beauty therapy, body piercing, hairdressing.	Department of Health
Removed requirement for a retail business to hold a licence for the sale of Schedule 6 Substances (Poisons), this includes basic household cleaning agents, essential oil and pesticides.	Department of Health

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Nurse practitioners, eligible midwives and podiatrists are now able to write prescriptions.	Department of Health
Pharmacists are able to vaccinate clients; a pilot is being conducted.	Department of Health
Removed requirement for wholesale premises to be registered in order for the business to deal with Schedule 6 substances, harmonising NT regulations with the rest of Australia.	Department of Health
<i>Pastoral Land Act</i> amendment: allows the Pastoral Land Board to issue non-pastoral use permits on pastoral land leased property, increasing land use options for pastoral properties.	Department of Land Resource Management
Streamlined land clearing applications; approval time reduced by up to three months.	Department of Land Resource Management
Comment Information System - improves coordination and processing of Agency comments under various Acts. Speeds up processing times for development assessments.	Department of Land Resource Management
Moved to nationally consistent legislation for the regulation of water efficiency labelling and standards.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Greater transparency in planning: the Development Consent Authority now places meeting agendas online.	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Building Approvals Online, removing the need for physical attendance at government offices to lodge paperwork.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Development One-Stop-Shop providing access to and speeding up development application processes.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Reduced paperwork for property conveyances regarding pool fencing certificates.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Established an independent Planning Commission to drive integrated strategic planning.	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Streamlining of Unit Titling Subdivision process: amended to require only a single clearance from service authorities, cutting weeks off the approval process	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Established the NT Environment Protection Authority that brings together management of environmental regulation and enforcement.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Allowing concurrent (rather than requiring sequential) assessment of planning scheme amendments (e.g. rezoning applications) and development assessments, saving weeks off the approval process.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Planning scheme now allows 300 square metre lots in Multiple Dwelling Zones, providing wider housing choice.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Deregulated independent dwellings (aka granny flats) and increased the size of permitted units in rural areas.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Improved the Survey Plan approval process reducing approval timeframes.	Department of Lands, Planning and Environment
Program of accelerated land release by Government. Streamlining of departmental processes. Fast-tracking existing greenfield projects, identifying urban infill sites.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Amendment of the <i>Local Government Act</i> to reduce overhead costs and provide flexibility in the way that councils conduct by-elections.	Department of Local Government and Community Services

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Repealed the <i>Places of Public Entertainment Act</i> .	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Abolished regional management plans, removing a cumbersome process for coordinating local government action.	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Gave the Minister the power to make restructuring orders relating to local government areas and councils which simplifies the process for restructuring local government areas.	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Streamlined and rationalised the process for Local Government of declaration of conditional rates. Conditional rates apply to pastoral and mining tenements.	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Transfer of low risk governance, operational and finance compliance functions to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Streamlined the mine authorisation process.	Department of Mines and Energy
Conditional mining approvals allows faster transition to mining operations.	Department of Mines and Energy
Spatial Territory Resource Information Kit for Exploration (STRIKE): web tool allows access to tenure information and geoscientific data for the resources industry.	Department of Mines and Energy
Amended the <i>Petroleum Act</i> to allow government to accept multiple applications for exploration permits on the same acreage.	Department of Mines and Energy
Removal of mandatory requirement for all operators of a mining site to make available an Annual Environmental Mining Report. Requirement is now based on risk assessment.	Department of Mines and Energy

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Mining Advisory Committee to advise on red tape impediments, among other things.	Department of Mines and Energy
Introduced online applications for Tour operator permits.	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
Streamlined payment of bond deposits for functions and events at George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
Extended term of permits from one year to five years for pig hunting, reducing paperwork.	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
Reduced approval times for Take Wildlife permits.	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT
Streamlined and rationalised the roles, functions and powers of the Animal Welfare Authority.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Establishment of the NT Fishing Mate App, providing easy access to rules and requirements.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Introduced an Industry development plan supporting reduction in red and green tape.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Power and Water Corporation structural separation reduces barrier to competition.	Power and Water Corporation
New Procurement Framework.	Power and Water Corporation
One Stop Shop - improved communication with developers, streamlining processes and provision of concierge/referral point.	Power and Water Corporation

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
PowerWater Bills now online.	Power and Water Corporation
Established Tourism NT as a Commission.	Tourism NT
Tourism NT changed its mandatory accreditation policy to a recognised treatment arrangement, meaning that accredited operators will receive certain benefits, but all operators will have the opportunity to be involved in Tourism NT's marketing and other activities.	Tourism NT
Rail Safety: moved to a single national rail safety regulator.	Department of Transport
Marine Safety National Law to regulate the safety of all commercial vessel operations in Australia. Establishes a single National Regulator for domestic commercial vessel safety.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: changes to eye sight testing.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: changes to the number of required vehicle inspections.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: pay for renewals at Australia Post outlets.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: price signal introduced to improve waiting times for practical driving test .	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: pilot program to outsource some categories of licence testing to further reduce waiting times.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: extending periods of validity for licences (new 10 year licence).	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: Rego Check App/Online allows drivers to check rego and inspection due dates.	Department of Transport

Attachment A - Initiatives completed - Total 109	Agency
Motor vehicle registration reforms: removal of light vehicle registration sticker.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: new vehicles exempt from inspection for first five years.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: online booking system for light vehicle inspections.	Department of Transport
Motor vehicle registration reforms: ability to receive licence and car registration renewals online.	Department of Transport
First Home Owners Grant streamlined into a single grant with one application form.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Removal of property value limit on First Home Owners Grant simplifies application and assessment process.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Participation in development and launch of a national payroll tax website which provides easy access to harmonised payroll tax documentation, legislation, state and territory contacts and education opportunities.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Introduction of an interactive electronic return for petroleum royalty payers.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Delivery of e-learning opportunities through national payroll tax webinars.	Department of Treasury and Finance

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49	Agency
Enable online lodgement of applications for Authority Certificates.	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
Electronic Conveyancing - Enable documents to be lodged and processed electronically.	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Review of <i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act</i> .	Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Community Services - migrate funding agreements from annual to three year terms reducing paper work and saving time.	Department of Local Government and Community Services
Licence Reform - establishing one Licensing Act and one Licensing Authority will reduce complexity and decision times.	Department of Business
Automotive Industry Review.	Department of Business
Review of <i>Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act</i> - Return to Work Bill will provide certainty for employers about liability.	Department of Business
Business Licence Reform Stage 2: streamlining and modernising business licence regulation for 105 licences including progressively allowing over the counter issuance of licences by Territory Business Centres.	Department of Business
Licence Reform: criminal history checks - reduce processing times for business and occupational licences by allowing Territory Business Centres to undertake criminal history checks for licences issued over the counter at Territory Business Centres.	Department of Business
Developing an integrated licensing system that will allow online transacting.	Department of Business
Working with the Australian Charities Commission to reduce duplication in reporting requirements for non-government organisations.	Department of Business

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49	Agency
Introduce streamlined categories of liquor licence to reduce complexity and paperwork for licensees.	Department of Business
Implement a range of measures across all agencies to reduce paperwork and the number of contacts that people and the Department of Businesses need to make with government, including: extending licence and permit terms to five years (or longer if appropriate); reducing reporting requirements; simplifying forms; moving all transactions online; prefilling renewal forms; centralising licensing databases; increasing collaboration across agencies (e.g. information sharing, joint inspections).	Department of Business
Establishment of a Construction and Development Advisory Council to investigate construction and development red tape.	Department of Business
Establish the interface between Unicard and WIMS ensuring reduced risk for error with data inputting for production of licences.	Department of Business
Removal of the requirement for reportable notifiable incidents to be followed up with a written 137 form, in some circumstances, which will reduce the workload of the sector but still ensure that workplace incidents are reported as per legislation.	Department of Business
Assist employers and workers by strengthening NT WorkSafe's advisory services.	Department of Business
Consumer Affairs Legislative review to streamline requirements and responsibility of agencies.	Department of Business/ Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
Environment One Stop shop for environmental approvals (Territory and Federal approvals to be done concurrently). Note: One Stop Shop is available for environmental assessments, the next stage is approvals.	Department of the Chief Minister
Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment delivers the Technologies for the Environmental Advancement of Mining in the Northern Territory (Team NT) initiative with a view to maximising local industry participation in major projects such as the Ichthys LNG and Prelude FLNG projects.	Department of the Chief Minister/ Department of Business

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49	Agency
Community Housing Providers: move to national system of registration, monitoring and regulation of community housing providers.	Department of Housing
Electronic infringement notices .	NT Emergency Service
Weed management compliance system: developing an electronic database for processing and managing compliance.	Department of Land Resource Management
Streamlining permit and regulatory processes for the crocodile industry.	Department of Land Resource Management
Review of Residential Building Cover (RBC) scheme to identify potential modifications to the RBC Package to reduce the red tape burden on the building industry whilst maintaining consumer protection.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Proposed amendments to remove height restrictions on building in Darwin CBD.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Development of Uniform Subdivision Guidelines to expedite planning approval and titling processes.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Development of new Bonding Arrangements to enable early titling and development approval.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Consolidation of spatial information systems, data and services.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49	Agency
Long term project to digitalise historic building files, improving online services.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Planning Land Use tables refined to allow more uses to be permitted without requiring Development Consent Authority approval, reducing the regulatory burden.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Examining exemption categories for minor structures, streamlining approval process.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Post building moratorium reforms.	Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment
Energy Advisory Committee.	Department of Mines and Energy
CORE (Creating Opportunities for Resource Exploration) - initiative to maximise exploration, discovery and development of new mineral and petroleum resources.	Department of Mines and Energy
Review of Petroleum legislation to support onshore oil and gas exploration.	Department of Mines and Energy
Extend term of permits from one year to five years for waterfowl hunting.	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49	Agency
Deliver up-to-date information to industry in readily accessible and appropriate formats about land and water resources to assist agriDepartment of Business and investors.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
The new Food Industry Group initiative is developing tools to support pastoralists to diversify their businesses and improve sustainability.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Review existing fisheries regulatory and compliance frameworks to ensure alignment of regulations, reduce red-tape and reduce the cost of compliance.	Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
Commercial Passenger Vehicle reform (including Taxi Industry Reform).	Department of Transport
Maritime Industry Review.	Department of Transport
Streamlining recreational vessel safety requirements.	Department of Transport
Reducing red tape in relation to the management of vessels in ports.	Department of Transport
Implement a range of reforms across various NT public sector superannuation schemes: NTGPASS, NTSSS, LAMS, Administrators Pension scheme.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Incorporation of behavioural insight principles to correspondence, publications and training sessions to assist clients in understanding and complying with their statutory obligations.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Use data from a range of internal and third party sources to enable compliance activity to be targeted to areas with a high risk of non-compliance.	Department of Treasury and Finance
Development of interactive web based forms.	Department of Treasury and Finance

Attachment B - Initiatives currently underway - 49

Conduct an annual review of registered taxpayers to ensure those with a low liability lodge annually rather than monthly.

Agency

Department of
Treasury and
Finance