

**COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS’
BUSINESS REGULATION AND COMPETITION WORKING GROUP (BRCWG)**

**COMMONWEALTH-STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND FORWARD
WORK PROGRAM.**

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the Working Group were agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 20 December 2007. They are to:

- accelerate and broaden the regulation reduction agenda;
- accelerate the existing COAG hot spots agenda;
- improve processes for regulation making and review; and
- deliver significant improvements in Australia’s competition, productivity and international competitiveness.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH FOR MARCH 2008

This plan delivers on COAG’s request that BRCWG deliver implementation plans on the following for its March 2008 meeting:

- Plans identifying a first tranche of new regulatory reform initiatives. Priority areas for further or new action could include Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S), payroll tax administration, building codes, trade and professional recognition, simplified accounting methods for the hospitality sector and Business Activity Statement (BAS) simplification.
- Strategies and implementation plans for reducing the regulatory burden, including alternative regulatory regimes and processes for offsetting new regulations.
- Plans to accelerate the existing regulatory hot spots agenda.
- A plan for addressing areas of regulation that impede national workforce mobility or skills acquisition, including through possible national systems for trade and professional qualifications and licensing.
- Assist the COAG Reform Council (CRC) to prepare a report for COAG on progress with existing energy, transport and infrastructure regulation and best practice regulation reforms.

It also sets out a forward work agenda across the competition reform stream of its work, in line with its terms of reference agreed by COAG in December 2007.

REGULATION

Plans for identification of new regulatory reform initiatives

The Working Group, chaired by the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon Lindsay Tanner MP and the Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy, the Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP, held three meetings to develop this implementation plan. A number of priority areas for reform on which progress could be achieved against one or more of the policy objectives outlined above were identified by the Working Group chairs and by members of the Working

Group. All Working Group members were invited to provide issues papers or implementation plans for the issues identified.

The objectives, benefits, deliverables, timeframes and outcomes for each issue are summarised in Attachment A. The impact each area of reform has on the regulatory environment varies. Each reform area has been categorised according to the level of regulatory change which is desirable – mutual recognition, harmonisation or a national system.

Prioritising reforms for reducing regulation

Reforms were prioritised according to likely benefits to productivity growth and workforce mobility. In doing so, the BRCWG gave consideration to the following factors:

- How wide is the reach of the regulation?
- How deep is the reach of the regulation? That is, does it have a significant effect on industries generating a large amount of GDP?
- How large are the costs to business and taxpayers of complying with the regulation?
- How damaging is the regulation to incentives for effort, risk-taking, entrepreneurship and innovation?
- How large are the impediments created by the regulation to workforce mobility and participation?

The Working Group considered over 35 possible reform areas where progress against the objectives relating to improving Australia's competitiveness, productivity and workforce mobility could be made in 2008 and decided that 27 areas of reform should be included in the implementation program. The Working Group concluded that:

- National harmonisation of OH&S laws is a top priority and that this should be reflected in an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) by May 2008, COAG to consider scope for a reduced implementation timetable in July 2008; and model legislation to be developed and submitted to the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council by September 2009.
- There are a further 12 areas, including existing hotspots and new areas of reform, where the BRCWG recommends that COAG agrees there should be early action, covering: environmental assessment and approvals bilaterals; payroll tax administration; trade licences; a Health Workforce IGA; national trade measurement; rail safety regulation reform; the consumer policy framework; product safety; trustee companies; mortgage credit and advice; margin lending; and non-deposit taking institutions.
- Significant progress could be made in accelerating the five remaining COAG hotspots - development assessment; building regulation; chemicals and plastics regulatory reform; Australian Business Number and business names registration; and Personal Property Securities reform.
- Nine new areas could be added to COAG's regulation work program, covering standard business reporting; food regulation; a national mine safety framework; electronic conveyancing; upstream petroleum (oil & gas) regulation; maritime safety; wine labelling; directors' liabilities; and financial service delivery.

The BRCWG recognised that a one size fits all approach to regulating across Australia was not appropriate, with the above reforms leading to either harmonisation or mutual recognition of different systems where this was appropriate or to the development of a single national system where that was justified. The Working Group also recognised the importance of working closely with existing Ministerial Councils, especially in the implementation phase where COAG has agreed new work areas.

Productivity Commission Inquiries

The Productivity Commission (PC) will report shortly on a major issue on the BRCWG agenda – a consumer policy framework, including mortgage credit and advice, and some aspects of product safety (30 April 2008). A draft research report on chemicals and plastics regulations was released on 19 March. The BRCWG is also recommending to COAG that the PC undertake a review on the regulation of crude oil and natural gas projects that involve more than one jurisdiction, to report in April 2009.

Forward work program: best practice processes for regulation making and review

Ensuring that the costs of both new and existing regulations are minimised is vital to reducing costs to businesses and consumers and to promoting improvements in Australia's productivity and competitiveness. This can be done by undertaking robust gate keeping and impact assessment on the flow of new regulations and by also reviewing the stock of existing regulation.

Under National Reform Agenda (NRA) initiatives agreed by COAG in April 2007, jurisdictions are committed to maximising the efficiency of regulation, including through establishing gatekeeper mechanisms, improving the quality of impact analysis, better measurement of compliance costs, undertaking annual reviews to reduce the burden of regulation and working with the PC on its benchmarking study into the compliance cost of regulation.

The BRCWG considered a paper on the adoption of a uniform approach to reducing regulatory burden and commenced an updated stock take of regulation and review processes in each jurisdiction.

While the BRCWG concluded that a uniform approach to reducing regulatory burden is unlikely to be appropriate, the Working Group will report to COAG in 2008 on further improvements that can be made to regulation making and review, including examining processes to ensure no net increase in the regulatory burden, and common start dates for legislation. The BRCWG will consider whether further reforms are needed to ensure jurisdictions will have best practice regulation and review processes in place by end 2008.

COMPETITION REFORM

A further task of the BRCWG is to ensure effective implementation of competition reforms agreed by COAG under the NRA. At its March 2008 meeting COAG considered a report from the COAG Reform Council (CRC) on progress in areas of

the existing agenda referred to it, covering: transport pricing reform; electricity smart meters; the new National Energy Market Operator and new transmission planning functions; infrastructure regulation; national rail safety reforms; establishment of a national system of trade measurement administered by the Commonwealth; and improvements to the Building Code of Australia. BRCWG members were invited to provide factual information on the content of the CRC's draft report.

Implementing the existing competition reform agenda under the NRA will deliver significant improvements in Australia's competition performance, productivity and international competitiveness. The BRCWG considers that significant opportunities remain to be achieved in delivering improvements to meet these objectives and the Working Group is considering further competition reforms as part of its forward work program. Accordingly, COAG has requested that the Working Group report back to it by the end of 2008 on new areas of competition reform, including:

- appropriate models for future regulation of national markets such as for water trading, the energy market, consumer policy and regulation affecting national workforce mobility;
- unfinished National Competition Policy business; and
- other new competition reforms.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performance information and timing milestones have been included in the overarching and individual implementation plans for each regulatory reform issue. As noted in the December 2007 COAG communiqué, the BRCWG has been tasked with developing and agreeing specific regulatory reform milestones for priority reform areas progressively over 2008, for possible application of incentive payments. Progress on these measures will be considered as part of the comprehensive end 2008 stocktake on implementation and progress requested by COAG at its December 2007 meeting.

CONCLUSION

The attached implementation plan summary includes early action in OH&S and other hotspots and new reform areas, as well as plans for accelerating other hotspots and adding new reform areas to COAG's agenda. In addition to the significant forward work program encompassed by that plan, the BRCWG, working in consultation with relevant ministerial councils, will also examine and report to COAG on possible further actions in relation to best practice regulatory reform process and competition reforms.

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		New body to replace the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) established	October 2008	
		Model OH&S Act exposure draft and RIS released Model OH&S Act submitted to the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council for approval	March 2009 September 2009	
2. EARLY ACTION				
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Bilaterals *	Develop a proposal for a more harmonised and efficient system of environmental assessment and approval to ensure there is no duplication in assessment or approval requirements between Commonwealth and State and Territory schemes	<p>COAG agrees that assessment bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and South Australia, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria will be completed by mid-2008, thereby finalising bilateral assessment agreements with all jurisdictions</p> <p>COAG agrees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth and each State and Territory will work expeditiously and constructively to develop approvals bilateral agreements where efficiencies can be achieved in meeting the requirements of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> • BRCWG will report to COAG on progress with approvals bilaterals by October 2008 • BRCWG will report to COAG on the case 	26 March 2008	Mutual Recognition

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>for additional reforms to ensure efficient Commonwealth/State/Territory environmental assessment and approvals processes, including for urban land and urban infrastructure development, by December 2008</p> <p>Finalisation of assessment bilateral agreement with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia • Australian Capital Territory • Victoria <p>Report to COAG on progress with approvals bilaterals and strategic approvals</p> <p>Report to COAG on the case for additional reforms to ensure options for ensuring efficient Commonwealth/State environmental assessment and approvals processes, including for urban land and urban infrastructure development</p>	<p>June 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p>	
Payroll Tax Administration	States and Territories initiative to harmonise administration of payroll tax, reducing compliance costs for business	<p>COAG supports the work done by the States and Territories to harmonise payroll tax administration</p> <p>COAG recognises that all jurisdictions will implement stage 1 and that Queensland and Tasmania will harmonise with New South Wales</p>	26 March 2008	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>and Victoria from 1 July 2008, that South Australia will be closely harmonised with New South Wales and Victoria from 1 July 2008 and that the remaining jurisdictions (Western Australia, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory) will give further consideration to participating in stage 2</p> <p>Stage 1: State and Territory governments harmonise payroll tax administration agreed under the States Payroll Consistency Project - adopt common payroll tax administration provisions and definitions for: timing of lodgment; vehicle allowances; accommodation allowances; fringe benefits; work performed outside a jurisdiction; employee share acquisition schemes; superannuation for non-working directors; and grouping of business</p> <p>Stage 2: State and Territory governments complete the harmonisation of definitions and terms in payroll tax legislation (not covered in Stage 1)</p>	<p>1 July 2008</p> <p>1 July 2009</p>	
Trade Licences	To address areas of regulation that impede national workforce mobility or skills acquisition including non-skills related barriers to regulatory reform	COAG endorses the good work done to date by all jurisdictions on mutual recognition and agrees that 31 vocationally trained licensed occupations have mutual recognition of qualifications allowing workers to move across borders	26 March 2008	Possible National System

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>COAG agrees that the further work on effective mutual recognition for vocationally trained licensed occupations be completed by September 2008, which is in advance of the previously agreed timeframe</p> <p>COAG agrees to explore further enhancements to mutual recognition and possible national systems for trade licensing. This could include, but is not limited to, a “driver’s licence” model whereby only one trade licence is needed to work in an occupation across different jurisdictions</p> <p>COAG requests that BRCWG provide options by July 2008 for future reforms with assistance from the COAG Skills Recognition Steering Committee (CSRSC). The report will take into account non-skills related barriers to regulatory reform (such as additional business registration requirements specific to a trade or profession), including assessment of the costs and benefits for each jurisdiction</p> <p>BRCWG, with assistance from the COAG CSRSC to provide options for future reforms to COAG</p>	July 2008	

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		Further work on effective mutual recognition for vocationally trained licensed occupations be completed	September 2008	
Health Workforce IGA	To reduce health workforce supply pressures by facilitating health workforce responsiveness and mobility, reducing red tape for practitioners and ensuring national consistency in training and registration of domestic and overseas trained practitioners, across nine health professions	COAG to determine final arrangements for the intergovernment agreement (IGA) developed through the COAG Health and Ageing Working Group and sign the IGA. This will achieve a national system for health workforce registration and accreditation of training	26 March 2008	National System
National Trade Measurement *	Deliver on COAG decision to establish a national system of trade measurement funded and administered by the Commonwealth with effect from 1 July 2010. Benefits include reduced compliance costs and efficiency gains for business while existing service standards are maintained	COAG welcomes and endorses the excellent progress made in establishing a national trade measurement system funded by the Commonwealth including agreement by all jurisdictions on an operational model and notes that legislative drafting is underway with a view to passage of legislation in 2008 Passage of legislation	26 March 2008 2008	National System
Rail Safety Regulation Reform	Improve national rail safety and efficiency and enable	COAG agrees on the importance of a national approach to rail safety regulation and that all	26 March 2008	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
*	Australia to meet the forecast growth in the national freight task by providing for a nationally consistent rail safety regulatory regime	<p>mainland jurisdictions will pass the model rail safety legislation by 31 December 2008</p> <p>Model Rail Safety legislation, regulations and guidelines</p> <p>Tasmania model legislation</p>	<p>31 December 2008</p> <p>31 December 2008 /2009</p>	
Consumer Policy Framework	Remove inconsistencies in consumer policy across jurisdictions and remove overlaps and gaps between Commonwealth and State and Territory operational responsibilities	<p>COAG agrees that BRCWG, in consultation with the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs, will develop by October 2008 enhanced national approaches to improve the consumer policy framework, including legislative and regulatory structures, drawing on the final report of the Productivity Commission</p> <p>Finalisation of the Productivity Commission Review of Australia's Consumer Policy Framework</p> <p>Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs consideration of final PC report</p> <p>COAG agrees to new national approach</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>30 April 2008</p> <p>23 May 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	National System
Consumer Protection - Product Safety *	To put in place a robust, efficient, cost effective national product safety regime across Australia	COAG agrees to the Commonwealth assuming greater responsibility for regulating product safety. States could retain the power to impose interim product bans	26 March 2008	National System

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>COAG asks the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs, through the BRCWG, to provide a detailed implementation plan to COAG by July 2008 on a national system</p> <p>Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs meeting</p> <p>Joint report from the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs and BRCWG</p>	<p>23 May 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p>	
Consumer Protection - Trustee Companies	To consolidate the existing regulatory regime, reducing compliance costs particularly for trustee companies that operate across borders	<p>COAG agrees to the Commonwealth assuming responsibility to regulate Trustee Companies</p> <p>Commonwealth Treasury undertakes consultation with industry stakeholders on the implementation plan on the regulation of trustee corporations</p> <p>Legislative drafting instructions finalised</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>May 2008</p> <p>May 2008</p>	National System
Consumer Protection - Mortgage Credit and Advice	To provide an effective and efficient national approach to consumer protection regulation for mortgage credit and advice	<p>COAG agrees in principle to the Commonwealth assuming responsibility for regulating mortgage credit and advice, including persons and corporations engaged in mortgage broking activities, for the purpose of protecting consumers. BRCWG, in consultation with the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs, will develop details by October 2008</p> <p>States will retain interim responsibility to regulate mortgage credit and advice and</p>	26 March 2008	National system

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>mortgage broker activities until the Commonwealth completes its assumption of responsibility</p> <p>Finalisation of the Productivity Commission Review of Australia's Consumer Policy Framework</p> <p>Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs consideration of the PC recommendations</p> <p>COAG to agree a new national approach</p>	<p>30 April 2008</p> <p>23 May 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	
Consumer Protection - Margin Lending	To provide an effective and efficient national approach to consumer protection regulation for margin lending	<p>COAG agrees in principle to the Commonwealth assuming responsibility for regulating margin lending, including persons and corporations engaged in margin lending. BRCWG, in consultation with the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs, will develop details by October 2008</p> <p>Finalisation of the Productivity Commission Review of Australia's Consumer Policy Framework</p> <p>Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs consideration of the PC recommendations</p> <p>COAG to agree a new national approach</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>30 April 2008</p> <p>23 May 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	National system
Consumer Protection - non-deposit taking	To provide an effective and efficient national approach to	COAG agrees in principle to the Commonwealth assuming responsibility for regulating lending	26 March 2008	National system

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
institutions	consumer protection regulation for non-deposit taking institutions	<p>by non-deposit taking institutions. BRCWG, in consultation with the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs, will develop details by October 2008</p> <p>Finalisation of the Productivity Commission Review of Australia's Consumer Policy Framework</p> <p>Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs consideration of the PC recommendations</p> <p>COAG to agree a new national approach</p>	<p>30 April 2008</p> <p>23 May 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	
3. ACCELERATING OTHER COAG HOTSPOTS				
Development Assessment *	To improve development assessment processes to provide greater certainty and efficiency in the development and construction sector by reducing regulatory burdens and delays including maximum uptake of electronic development assessment processing nationally, noting that local councils remain responsible for their development policies	<p>COAG agrees that all levels of government should continue moving to streamline planning and approval processes to reduce development costs and improve housing affordability</p> <p>One of the early initiatives could be to achieve agreement on common performance measurement criteria (such as timelines and costs, both of which contribute to affordability and compliance costs) for introduction as soon as practical</p> <p>COAG notes the Prime Minister's recent announcement to commit up to \$30 million to assist local councils across Australia to introduce</p>	26 March 2008	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>electronic development assessment (eDA) systems</p> <p>COAG requests the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council and BRCWG (in consultation with the Housing Working Group) to report back to COAG in July 2008 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scope and timelines for taking the streamlining of processes further • options for fast-tracking the introduction of common performance measurement criteria • progress with rapid adoption of eDA across local councils to help speed up land release and reduce development costs <p>COAG agrees that councils' systems must be implemented in an integrated and co-ordinated manner using national frameworks and standards, and that the national eDA data protocol that underpins these systems must be properly established and maintained</p> <p>Local Government Planning Ministers Council report back to COAG</p>	<p>July 2008</p>	

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Building Regulation *	Ensure best practice regulation-making, review processes that apply to the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and remove unnecessary state-based and local government variations to the BCA and to establish a nationally consistent approach to licensing and accreditation in the building industry. These proposed reforms will result in benefits overall throughout the community (government, business and consumers)	<p>COAG agrees that BRCWG investigate the merits of a National Construction Code and mutual recognition or harmonisation of practitioner skills and report back to COAG by July 2008</p> <p>Building Ministers Forum report on building regulatory reform initiatives to be provided to COAG</p> <p>Business case for a National Construction Code to be developed in consultation with State and Territory officials</p> <p>BRCWG report back to COAG on the merits of a National Construction Code and a national register and accreditation of practitioner skills</p> <p>COAG announcement of implementation strategy</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>26 March 2008</p> <p>April/May 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p>	National system
Chemicals and Plastics Regulatory Reform *	Address stakeholder concerns about the compliance burden in the regulation of chemicals and plastics, reflecting the complex matrix of chemicals and plastics regulation across multiple agencies, jurisdictions and all levels of government – while maintaining appropriate	<p>COAG agrees the Ministerial Taskforce on chemicals and plastics regulation will meet in early April 2008 and report back to COAG on actions in response to the PC recommendations by October 2008</p> <p>Draft PC Report</p> <p>First meeting of the COAG Ministerial Taskforce</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>19 March 2008</p> <p>8 April 2008</p>	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
	OH&S, public health and environmental protections	<p>on chemicals and plastics regulation</p> <p>Final PC Report</p> <p>COAG agrees action in response to the PC recommendations</p> <p>Taskforce chair to report to COAG on progress</p>	<p>27 July 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p>	
<p>Australian Business Number (ABN) and Business Names Registration</p> <p>*</p>	<p>COAG has tasked this project to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden on business especially in relation to registering ABNs and business names, and improve ongoing business to government transactions</p>	<p>COAG requests the Small Business Ministerial Council in conjunction with the BRCWG to report to COAG by mid-2008 on proposed improvements to the ABN and Business Names model</p> <p>Business Case to project Steering Committee</p> <p>Business Case / report to COAG out of session</p> <p>COAG announcement of implementation strategy with possible acceleration to October 2008 depending on acceptance of the business case</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>March/April 2008</p> <p>Mid-2008</p> <p>December 2008</p>	<p>Harmonisation</p>
<p>Personal Property Securities (PPS) Reform</p> <p>*</p>	<p>To develop a single national system for the registration and regulation of security interests in personal property</p>	<p>COAG announces that Commonwealth exposure draft legislation on personal property securities has been released to stakeholders to ensure the proposed reforms are workable and effective</p> <p>Exposure draft of legislation released to key stakeholders for comment (in-confidence basis)</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>March 2008</p>	<p>National System</p>

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
		<p>SCAG meets to endorse intergovernmental agreement</p> <p>Public consultation</p> <p>Intergovernmental agreement signed and financial arrangements with the states finalised</p>	<p>28-29 March 2008</p> <p>May 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	
4. NEW REFORMS FOR COAG's WORK PROGRAM				
Standard Business Reporting	To reduce the burden of reporting financial information to government by: making forms easier to understand; enabling forms to be pre-filled using the business' software; and providing a single secure way for businesses and intermediaries to interact electronically with participating agencies	<p>COAG supports standard business reporting and notes that the Commonwealth has committed resources of \$243 million over four years to fund this program. COAG endorses the strategic plan to standardise business reporting</p> <p>Initially focusing on financial reporting, the program involves all State and Territory offices of State Revenue, the Australian Taxation Office, Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Implementation – key steps: Tax file number incorporation, detailed design for payroll tax incorporation, IT build completed, new whole of government authentication processes and systems and pilots</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>January – September 2009</p>	Mutual Recognition/ Harmonisation
Food Regulation	To provide efficient food	COAG agrees that the BRCWG will report on	26 March 2008	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
	safety regulations and reduce the regulatory burden on businesses and not-for-profit organisations, without compromising public health	<p>options for reducing the regulatory burden on businesses and not-for-profit organisations in relation to food regulation, without compromising public health</p> <p>Report back at the July 2008 COAG meeting</p>	July 2008	
National Mine Safety Framework	To reduce the regulatory burden on business and support the delivery of the mining industry goal of zero harm in the workplace by delivering a nationally consistent mine safety regime	<p>COAG agrees that the Ministerial Council on Minerals and Petroleum Resources (MCMPR) in consultation with BRCWG report on options for reform in national mine safety regulation by October 2008. A legislative framework, consultation framework and a national data set has been developed under the National Mine Safety Framework process and are currently being considered by all State governments and the Northern Territory for their endorsement. All Australian Governments acknowledge the commitment and ownership that has been shown by stakeholders in this tripartite process</p> <p>MCMPR to report to COAG on options for national mine safety regulation</p> <p>MCMPR endorsement of final strategies and, if appropriate, the merits of a national authority and related recommendation to COAG</p> <p>COAG agrees final stages</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p>	Harmonisation

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Electronic Conveyancing	To provide a single electronic system for completing real property transactions and lodging land title dealings for registration in Australia	<p>COAG agrees to the development of a national electronic conveyancing system</p> <p>COAG to consider advice on appropriate governance arrangements and system implementation processes by June 2008</p> <p>Implementation – key steps Development of governance model</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>June 2008</p>	National System
Upstream Petroleum (Oil & Gas) Regulation	To investigate and reduce the regulatory burden on the upstream petroleum industry, noting that this level of regulatory inconsistency and duplication between jurisdictions (including between the Commonwealth and a State) has been identified as a key impediment to maximising investment in development of Australia's oil and gas resources	<p>COAG announces the commissioning of a Productivity Commission report on the regulation of crude oil and natural gas projects that involve more than one jurisdiction</p> <p>Draft report</p> <p>Final report</p> <p>Response from jurisdictions</p> <p>COAG agreement to key outcomes and implementation timeline</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>December 2008</p> <p>April 2009</p> <p>June 2009</p> <p>December 2009</p>	Harmonisation
Maritime Safety Jurisdiction	To minimise unnecessary costs and requirements on industry arising from the operation of both State/Territory and Commonwealth legislation in relation to some vessels and	<p>COAG requests the Australian Transport Council (ATC) to consider and report back to the BRCWG on implementation of a single national approach to maritime safety for commercial vessels</p>	26 March 2008	National System/ Mutual Recognition

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
	operators	<p>Commonwealth and State Transport Ministers ATC on approach to considering national maritime safety regulation and jurisdictional reform issues</p> <p>ATC to decide on preferred approach and commission detailed work to develop that approach</p> <p>Agreement between maritime and workplace relations Ministers to details and mechanisms based on the preferred approach</p>	<p>May 2008</p> <p>November 2008</p> <p>March 2009</p>	
Wine Labelling	Reduce costs to Australian wine producers by aligning domestic and export wine labelling requirements	<p>COAG asks the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs to expedite bringing the World Wine Trade Group's Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling into force</p> <p>South Australia to provide a discussion paper and sample drafting instructions and legislation for consideration at the May 2008 Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs (MCCA)</p> <p>MCCA to report to BRCWG on current and planned uptake by jurisdictions for the October COAG meeting</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>23 May 2008</p> <p>September 2008</p>	Uniform approach

ISSUE	OBJECTIVE/BENEFITS	DELIVERABLE	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Directors' Liabilities	To implement measures that will promote a consistent and principled approach to the imposition of personal criminal liability for corporate fault	<p>COAG agrees that the issue of directors' liabilities will be included on the new COAG agenda and requests the BRCWG to report to COAG at its July 2008 meeting on the case for reforms in this area</p> <p>BRCWG will report back to COAG on the case for reforms in this area</p> <p>BRCWG will develop implementation plans for any identified reform areas</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	Harmonisation
Financial Service Delivery, including pay-day lenders and fringe credit providers	To provide a more effective and efficient approach to regulation of financial services, not captured by the early action areas in section 2 above	<p>COAG requests the BRCWG to identify any other areas of financial services activities that best sit within the Commonwealth's regulatory responsibility</p> <p>BRCWG will report back to COAG on any other areas of financial services activities that best sit within the Commonwealth's regulatory responsibility</p> <p>BRCWG will develop implementation plans for any financial services activities</p>	<p>26 March 2008</p> <p>July 2008</p> <p>October 2008</p>	National system