

## APPENDIX B.16

### PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

#### Summary

Prime Minister and Cabinet reported five measures<sup>1</sup> during the year, with a total net regulatory saving of \$3.8 million<sup>2</sup>.

#### 2015 regulatory measures, previously reported in conjunction with the Autumn and Spring Repeal Days

*These measures below are reproductions of the 2015 Autumn and Spring Repeal Day overview descriptions and have not been amended.<sup>3</sup> Where necessary, supplementary information is shown as blue text.*

Prime Minister & Cabinet	Repealing the Aboriginal Affairs (Arrangements with the States) Act 1973 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Aboriginal Affairs (Arrangements with the States) Act 1973</i> will be repealed.</li><li>This Act allowed state public servants to be appointed to the Australian Public Service and enabled Australian Public Servants to undertake duties under the laws of the States relating to Aboriginal Affairs. The Act is redundant as the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> currently provides for these arrangements to be put in place.</li><li><b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> Measures counted here only include decisions with a regulatory impact. Measures with a zero regulatory impact have been excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Note that this is a once-off saving in 2015, rather than an annual saving. This occurs in a small number of cases, as canvassed in Appendix C.

<sup>3</sup> To align this table with the 2015 calendar year, any measures accounted for in the previous annual report have been excluded.

Prime Minister & Cabinet	Repealing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Queensland Discriminatory Laws) Act 1975 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Queensland Discriminatory Laws) Act 1975</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• This Act superseded certain provisions of the laws of Queensland that discriminated against Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders living in reserves in Queensland. The laws targeted by this Act have since been repealed. The <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975</i> provides general and specific protection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Autumn 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>
Prime Minister & Cabinet	Extending grant funding arrangements <sup>4</sup> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between November 2014 and January 2015 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet extended more than 900 existing funding agreements for frontline Indigenous services programmes.</li> <li>• The one off (six month) extension was designed to support the transition of existing programmes to the new Indigenous Advancement Strategy arrangements and negated the need for these entities to reapply for funding, which had previously been required on a calendar-year basis.</li> <li>• The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet estimated that this led to a saving of \$3.7 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> The treatment of participation requirements was consistent with the Regulatory Burden Measurement (RBM) framework in effect at the point the decision was taken. Effective 30 September 2015, the Government amended guidance about the treatment of enforcement costs under the RBM. Further details on these changes are outlined in the Regulatory Burden Measurement Framework Guidance Note (February 2016). See <https://ris.govspace.gov.au/files/2016/02/Regulatory-Burden-Measurement-framework-guidance-note.pdf>

Prime Minister & Cabinet	Improving arrangements for Indigenous procurements (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 25 May 2015 the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Minister for Finance announced improved arrangements for Indigenous procurements.</li> <li>New procurement arrangements will make it easier for Indigenous businesses to integrate into current and future supply chains, and increase efficiency for both public and private sector organisations to source Indigenous businesses. Under the new arrangements obligations under the Indigenous Opportunities Policy (IOP) such as preparing IOP plans and reporting on them on an annual basis have been removed. The introduction of 'Supply Nation', a listing of Indigenous businesses that can be viewed and searched online, has streamlined the process of registering and identifying an Indigenous business.</li> <li>The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$0.2 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Prime Minister & Cabinet	Repealing the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991 (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the <i>Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Act 1991</i> (CAR Act) will be repealed as the legislation is spent and redundant.</li> <li>The CAR Act was introduced as a result of cross-party support for the establishment of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation ('the Council'). Each of the provisions set out within the CAR Act are specific to either the establishment, processes or requirements relating to the operation of the Council. The functions and powers of the Council were limited to activities related to reconciliation such as consulting, undertaking certain initiatives, promoting and fostering discussion, providing advice, reports and develop strategic plans to promote the process of reconciliation.</li> <li>The Council was established in 1991 and produced its final report in 2000. Section 32 provided that the CAR Act ceased from 1 January 2001 and it therefore has been inoperative since that date. There are no ongoing arrangements, appointments or other measures that have been entered into or commenced under the CAR Act since 2001.</li> </ul>

## International standards and risk assessments

As part of the Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, announced in October 2014, the Government adopted the principle that if a system, service or product has been approved under a trusted international standard or risk assessment, then our regulators should not impose any additional requirements for approval in Australia, unless it can be demonstrated that there is a good reason for doing so.

In developing criteria for assessing opportunities for the acceptance or adoption of trusted standards and assessments, the Department and some of its portfolio agencies have

published the following materials on-line: <http://www.dpmc.gov.au/pmc/about-pmc/taskforces-and-consultations/acceptance-international-standards-and-risk-assessments-product-approvals>

The Department developed criteria for assessing the appropriateness of adopting a particular international standard or risk assessment. This criteria was open for public consultation until 28 October 2015.

### **Further information**

If you would like further information about the information provided here, please email Ms Sarah Vandebroek, Assistant Secretary, Budgets and Reporting Branch, Financial Services Division from the Department of the Prime Minister at [sarah.vandebroek@pmc.gov.au](mailto:sarah.vandebroek@pmc.gov.au).