

## APPENDIX B.1

### AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

#### Summary

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources reported 29 measures<sup>1</sup> during the year, with a total net regulatory saving of \$66.1 million per year.

The Department has a long history of regulatory reform, and in 2015 made significant changes to the way it imposes regulation on businesses, individuals and community organisations.

A range of reforms across the department in service delivery modernisation have integrated the way officials interact with clients across import and export sectors. These reforms emphasised the need for a less complex and more consistent approach to regulation. Redesigned cost recovery arrangements are expected to provide significant compliance savings to our clients, particularly by reducing the time spent paying for import and export services.

In line with the portfolio's ongoing move to risk-based regulation, the removal of defined-risk stock and pet feed from the scope of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority regulatory assessment has reduced the need for these products to be subject to the same intensive assessment process as other high-risk AgVet chemical products. This has reduced costs on industry, reduced the impediments to product innovation, and accelerates the introduction domestically of products available overseas.

The Department and its portfolio agencies are committed to making ongoing reforms that will increase productivity and reduce the burden we impose on our stakeholders.

---

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

## Regulatory measures reported since the 2015 Spring Repeal Day<sup>2</sup>

### With an impact of greater than \$2 million

Agriculture and  
Water Resources

Implementing cost recovery arrangements for import and export certification

- On 1 December 2015, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources implemented changes to the cost recovery arrangements for biosecurity and export certification funding.
- The new arrangements ensure cost recovery arrangements support more efficient and effective import and export certification systems and better align with the department's current business practices. These new arrangements will result in time savings associated with the streamlining of fees and levies for importers, with some slight increases for some businesses where cross subsidisation is removed. In addition, the arrangements will ensure the sustainable funding of activities that safeguard Australian agriculture's contribution of around \$51 billion to the national economy, including around \$39 billion in exports.
- The Office of Best Practice Regulation has agreed that this will lead to a net annual saving of \$47.3 million in compliance costs.

---

<sup>2</sup> These measure descriptions relate to new decisions taken and reported between the Spring 2015 Repeal Day and 31 December 2015. Descriptions of regulatory increases or regulatory decreases generally capture those measures with a regulatory change in excess of \$2 million per annum.

## 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.

Agriculture and Water Resources	Improving regulation of low-risk stock and pet food products <sup>4</sup> (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 11 February 2015, the Minister for Agriculture approved amendments to the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulations 1995</i>, to exclude certain types of animal feed for both stock and companion animals from the scope of Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority regulatory assessment.</li> <li>The changes that commenced on 5 March 2015 will better align the registration requirements for stock and pet food with the risks associated with their ingredients and intended use patterns. These products have a well-characterised and manageable risk profile, reducing the need for these low-risk products to be subject to the same intensive assessment process as other high-risk AgVet chemical products.</li> <li>The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$7.8 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Abolishing the Australian Landcare Council (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, Parts 4 and 5 of Section 27 of the <i>Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1992</i>, which establishes the Australian Landcare Council (ALC) will be repealed.</li> <li>In May 2014, the Government announced that the ALC and the Natural Heritage Trust Advisory Committee would be replaced by one central, non-statutory body - the National Landcare Advisory Committee. There are currently no members on the ALC as the appointment terms for the majority of ALC members lapsed in 2013 and the remainder have resigned.</li> <li>Key stakeholders including the National Farmers' Federation, Australian Conservation Foundation, World Wildlife Fund along with national, state and territory Landcare networks and peak agricultural bodies were consulted on the proposed repeal and no concerns were raised.</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>3</sup> To align this table with the 2015 calendar year, any measures accounted for in the previous annual report have been excluded.

<sup>4</sup> This measure was separately reported in both the Autumn 2015 and Spring 2015 Repeal Day overviews. The description here refers to the description reported in the Spring 2015 overview.

Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing of Dairy Adjustment Act 1974 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Dairy Adjustment Act 1974</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The purpose of the Act was to provide Commonwealth financial assistance for dairy adjustment programs. The Act enabled the Commonwealth to enter into agreements and make payments to the states for the purpose of dairy adjustment programs.</li> <li>• The Act is redundant and can be repealed. The last agreement came into effect in 1976. There are no agreements currently in place between the Commonwealth and a state. All agreements entered into with the states have run their course and all loans, payments and repayment obligations have been finalised.</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>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Domestic Meat Premises Charge Act 1993 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Domestic Meat Premises Charge Act 1993</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act will be redundant upon repeal of the <i>Meat Inspection Act 1983</i> (see further below). The Act provides for the imposition of a prescribed charge payable by an operator or owner of an accredited killing or processing plant (meat premises).</li> <li>• There are no meat premises that meet the charge criteria.</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>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Meat Export Charge Act 1984 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Meat Export Charge Act 1984</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act is redundant. It was enacted to impose a charge on applications for the inspection of export meat and meat products.</li> <li>• The inspection of meat and meat products for export was overhauled in the Australian Government's Export Certification Reform Package in October 2011. Cost recovery arrangements are now set out under the Australian Export Meat Inspection System and fees are collected under other Commonwealth legislation.</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>

Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Meat Export Charge Collection Act 1984 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Meat Export Charge Collection Act 1984</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act will be redundant upon repeal of the <i>Meat Export Charge Act 1984</i> (see above). It was enacted to provide for the collection of the charge imposed by the <i>Meat Export Charge Act 1984</i>.</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>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Meat Inspection Act 1983 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Meat Inspection Act 1983</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act is redundant. It was enacted to provide for the domestic inspection of meat that is intended for human consumption or for use as animal food.</li> <li>• None of the activities empowered by the Act are currently carried out by the Commonwealth. Domestic meat inspection is carried out by the states and territories under their own legislation.</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>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Meat Inspection Arrangements Act 1964 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Meat Inspection Arrangements Act 1964</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act is redundant. It was enacted to enable the Commonwealth to enter into an arrangement with a state or state meat authority for Commonwealth inspectors to inspect meat for consumption in Australia.</li> <li>• The Act provides for arrangements between the Commonwealth and a state or with a state meat authority, to appoint state meat inspectors to the Australian Public Service. The Commonwealth no longer employs state meat inspectors under the Act. Inspection for the purpose of domestic meat consumption is undertaken solely by state or state meat authority employees under a law of a state.</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>

Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the Primary Industry Councils Act 1991 (Autumn)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Autumn Repeal Day, the <i>Primary Industry Councils Act 1991</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act is redundant. It was enacted to establish councils to assist the Government with the development of sound, consistent and comprehensive policies concerning primary industries.</li> <li>• At present, no industry councils are established by this Act and none have been established under this Act since 1993. Two councils were previously established under the Act but are now ceased—the Grains Industry Council (established in 1991 and ceased in 1999) and the Australian Pig Industry Council (established in 1993 and ceased in 1998).</li> <li>• The Minister for Agriculture is currently supported by the Agricultural Industry Advisory Council for advice on contemporary issues affecting Australia’s agricultural, fishing and forestry sectors. Additionally, the Forest Industry Advisory Council provides advice on proposed legislation or policies affecting the forestry sector.</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>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Modernising service delivery in the field (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June 2015 the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources completed a pilot to test the use of mobile devices in the field to reduce paperwork and double handling of information.</li> <li>• These devices improve access to information for staff working in the field, leading to a faster release of goods imported into Australia and decreased interaction time with the Department for importers, Customs Brokers or their agents. For example, clearance of some imported goods has gone from 24-48 hours, to almost on-the-spot clearances, saving importers valuable time and storage fees. Rollout of the devices to the remaining field staff commenced in early July 2015 and will conclude in December 2015.</li> <li>• The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has estimated that this will lead to an annual saving of \$8.7 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Reducing record keeping requirements for our primary producers (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 16 June 2015 the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources announced tax depreciation measures arising from the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.</li> <li>• Effective 12 May 2015 the measures allow all primary producers, regardless of turnover, to immediately write off capital expenditure on fencing and water facilities, as well as providing a three-year write-off period for fodder storage assets. This will help to reduce record keeping and costs for our primary producers.</li> <li>• The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$1.4 million in compliance costs.</li> </ul>

Agriculture and Water Resources	Export Control Amendments (Quotas) Bill 2015 (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources will introduce the Export Control Amendments (Quotas) Bill 2015.</li> <li>• Following the commencement of the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement on 15 January 2015, a temporary scheme, based on Government certificate provisions of the <i>Export Control Act 1982</i>, was put in place to include quotas that were not covered under the commodity-specific scheme.</li> <li>• This measure seeks to move, without change, the Agriculture tariff rate quota legislation regime into the <i>Export Control Act 1982</i>, and thereafter to repeal the existing legislation at a later date. The proposed Bill will include a head of power to administer tariff rate quotas and also a power to repeal existing legislation.</li> <li>• The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has estimated that there will be no change in compliance costs as the changes are machinery in nature.</li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the <i>Rural Adjustment Act 1992</i> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the <i>Rural Adjustment Act 1992</i> will be repealed, resulting in the termination of the National Rural Advisory Council (NRAC).</li> <li>• The objectives of the Act were to foster the development of a more profitable farm sector and to improve the sector's competitiveness in a sustainable manner. Obsolete provisions relating to the Rural Adjustment Scheme and the Farm Business Improvement Programme have either ceased or have been superseded by new drought support.</li> <li>• Repealing the Act will also result in the NRAC being abolished. As part of the Government's commitment to its Smaller Government Reform Agenda, the positions of NRAC members were allowed to lapse or were revoked in June 2015. Its functions are now covered by the Agricultural Industry Advisory Council.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>

Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the <i>Wool International Act 1993</i> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the <i>Wool International Act 1993</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• This Act provided equity to wool growers in respect of contributions made to WoolStock Australia Limited (WoolStock Ltd) through payment of a wool tax and gave registered equity holders a right to a share in the surplus money of WoolStock Ltd.</li> <li>• WoolStock Ltd was wound up and delisted from the Australian Stock Exchange in 2001 following a major reduction in the wool stockpile.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Repealing the <i>Wool International Privatisation Act 1999</i> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the <i>Wool International Privatisation Act 1999</i> will be repealed.</li> <li>• The Act provided for the privatisation of the statutory authority Wool International and the creation of Woolstock Australia Limited (WoolStock Ltd).</li> <li>• The privatisation process is now complete and the privatised company, WoolStock Ltd, ceased to exist in 2001.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Amending the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994</i> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994</i> will be amended.</li> <li>• Currently the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) must notify Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) if a proposal for the APVMA to approve a label or active constituent, register a chemical product, vary an approval, registration or label or issue a permit, could require a variation to the Maximum Residue Limits Standard. The current notice includes all of the relevant particulars of the chemical products concerned, as well as information that are not relevant to the Maximum Residue Limits Standard. The amendments will reduce administrative complexity by removing unnecessary information so that the particulars provided are only those required by FSANZ.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>



Agriculture and Water Resources	Abolishing the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Board (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Board will be abolished by repealing Divisions 2, 3 and 4 of Part 3 of the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992</i>.</li> <li>• The APVMA Advisory Board was established under the Act to provide advice and make recommendations to the APVMA CEO. In consultation with the APVMA CEO, it has been determined that existing mechanisms for consultations under APVMA's legislation would result in a more responsive and cost-effective advice mechanisms than the continuation of the advisory board.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></li> </ul>
Agriculture and Water Resources	Remove obsolete provisions from the <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997</i> (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of the 2015 Spring Repeal Day, Subsections 63(1) and 64(1) of the <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997</i> (AMLI Act), which are obsolete, will be repealed.</li> <li>• Part 3, Division 3 of the AMLI Act provided payments for industry bodies. Subsections 63(1) and 64(1) of the Act provide that payments to marketing bodies and industry bodies are based on provisions of a number of Acts that were repealed by the <i>Primary Industries Levies and Charges (Consequential Amendments) Act 1999</i>, and ceased to have effect on 1 July 1999. Therefore Subsections 63(1) and 64(1) no longer operate. Payments of the amounts specified in the repealed Acts were finalised in 2008.</li> <li>• <b>NB: This measure was part of the Omnibus Repeal Day (Spring 2015) Bill. There are no regulatory savings or burden associated with this proposal.</b></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 Australian 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:

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/commitment/deregulation/international-standards>

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

<http://www.afma.gov.au/about/reducing-red-tape/afma-reduce-red-tape/>

Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority

<http://apvma.gov.au/node/14186>

## **Adopted international standards**

Australia is party to a series of agreements that have an ongoing role in developing international standards.

For example, the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement encourages World Trade Organisation members to harmonise their measures by basing SPS measures on agreed international standards. These international standards are developed by the following organisations:

- International Plant Protection Convention
- World Organisation for Animal Health
- Codex Alimentarius Commission

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade coordinate Australia's input to international SPS policy, and influence its development through active participation.

Source: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/sps>

For almost a decade, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has participated in an Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Global Joint Review programme, taking an active role in using international data and conducting joint assessments with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency and some European Union Member States. As part of this exercise, Australia has worked with other regulators to provide guidance to pesticide manufacturers wishing to register products by applying international best practice for assessments and registration decisions. Through this programme, the APVMA has used information and assessment reports produced by other OECD regulators.

Source: <http://apvma.gov.au/node/14186>

## **Further information**

If you have a question about the information provided here, please email Ms Lisa Elliston, Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy and Land Branch, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources at [lisa.elliston@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:lisa.elliston@agriculture.gov.au).