

APPENDIX B.3

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

Summary

Communications and the Arts reported 32 measures¹ during the year, with a total net regulatory saving of \$256.4 million per year.

Since late 2013, the Government has introduced more than 65 communications sector measures aimed at simplifying regulation and has removed more than 3,400 pages of unnecessary regulation related to the portfolio and its affected stakeholders. This has delivered an estimated cumulative annual savings of \$340 million for businesses and consumers in the communications sector.

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.²

Communications and the Arts	Supporting multi-technology rollouts of high speed broadband (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In August 2015 the Minister for Communications made two instruments: the Telecommunications Amendment (Designated Overhead Lines) Regulation 2015 and the Telecommunications (Low-Impact Facilities) Determination 1997 (Amendment No. 3 of 2015).• These changes better support the efficient rollout of high speed broadband using multiple technologies. The amendments provide NBN Co and other carriers with greater flexibility to deploy high-speed broadband infrastructure like fibre-to-the-node (FTTN), fibre-to-the-basement (FTTB) and hybrid fibre-coaxial cable (HFC), as well as fibre-to-the-premises (FTTP), which in turn enables cheaper construction and reduced delay costs for NBN Co.• The Department of Communications has estimated that this will lead to an annual saving of \$5.2 million in compliance costs.

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

² To align this table with the 2015 calendar year, any measures accounted for in the previous annual report have been excluded.

Communications and the Arts	Increasing flexibility for Australia Post (Spring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 3 March 2015 the Australian Government announced reforms to modernise Australia Post. • These reforms will introduce a two-speed letter delivery service comprising a Priority Service and a Regular Service, with the latter permitting letters to be delivered on average every second business day. The reforms, which will reduce the need for overnight processing and facilitate increased automation of sorting, will allow Australia Post to operate with greater efficiency and flexibility in an environment which has experienced rapid declines in letter volumes and revenue. • The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$187 million in compliance costs. 	
Communications and the Arts	Increasing telecommunications competition in new developments (Spring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 1 March 2015 new arrangements have applied to the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in new developments. • These new arrangements, as set out in the Telecommunications in New Developments policy, will allow NBN Co to charge for the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in new developments. Previous arrangements unduly tilted the playing field against private infrastructure providers who had to compete against NBN Co, which provided infrastructure at no charge to developers. The arrangements also constrained NBN Co in that it could not directly recover its costs. By allowing NBN Co to charge for infrastructure, alternative providers now have the ability and incentive to compete, putting downward pressure on costs and encouraging innovation. • The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$58.8 million in compliance costs. 	

Further information

If you have a question about the information provided here, please email deregulation@communications.gov.au.