

APPENDIX B.9

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

Summary

The Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio reported nine measures¹ during the year, with a total net regulatory saving of \$9.8 million per year. The portfolio includes a small but diverse range of regulatory functions from issuing passports to providing support to small and medium exporters. By removing unnecessary regulation and only imposing new regulation where it is absolutely necessary, the portfolio is helping the Government to deliver on its 2013 commitment to reduce regulatory costs by \$3 billion over three years.

In 2015 a significant amount of the portfolio's regulatory savings were derived from changes and improvements to Australian passport applications and fees. From 1 January 2016 passport applicants are no longer required to pay a fee if they have lost (or had stolen) a previous passport in the last five years. Further key regulatory savings were generated through changes to Contractor Performance Assessment requirements and Advisor Stocktake Reforms. Both of these changes streamlined or removed some of the administrative reporting requirements on low-value and low-risk contracts.

Savings also included benefits from the First Protocol to amend the Agreement Establishing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA). This change reduced the regulatory requirements and compliance costs for Australian businesses making use of AANZFTA to import or export goods.

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

Foreign Affairs & Trade	Reducing the time spent applying for a new passport (Spring)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">On 1 October 2015 the amended and remade Australian Passports Determination 2015 commenced.The amendments will reduce the cost and time spent applying for a new passport in certain circumstances by: issuing ten-year validity passports to child applicants aged 16 or 17; removing fees for lost and stolen passports; and providing the option of a replacement passport where a passport is reported lost or stolen.The OBPR has agreed that this will lead to an annual saving of \$5.3 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.

Further information

If you have a question about the information provided here, please email the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Regulatory Reform Unit at corporate.planning@dfat.gov.au.