



CHIEF MINISTER

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5500
Facsimile: 08 8936 5576

Senator David Leyonhjelm
Chair
The Senate Red Tape Committee

By email: redtape.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Leyonhjelm

Thank you for your invitation of 27 March 2018 offering the Northern Territory Government the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Select Committee's Inquiry into the effect of red tape on occupational licensing.

In June 2017, the Northern Territory Government published its Economic Development Framework which outlines the directions and actions needed to accelerate the Territory's economic development.

One of the key actions from the Economic Development Framework is to progress a comprehensive, balanced and accountable regulatory reform agenda to provide a globally competitive environment.

As part of this agenda, the Northern Territory is implementing a range of reforms aimed at reducing red tape for businesses and employees, including the introduction of longer licensing terms and the introduction of a central licensing database and online transacting for licensing matters.

The central licensing database allows businesses and individuals to transact online and reduces the need for applicants to provide the same information multiple times. Currently, online transacting is available for business and occupational licensing matters relating to property (lease estate agents and conveyancers), private security, motor vehicle dealers, tobacco, liquor, gambling and gaming employees.

The Northern Territory Government is working to understand the system requirements and budgetary implications of expanding the central licensing database to include a range of other industries.

These reforms benefit individuals and businesses by reducing the regulatory burden and compliance costs. For example, the reform to move liquor, private security and gaming licensing transactions online has the potential to have a material impact on compliance costs for the tourism and hospitality sector.

Feedback from Northern Territory businesses has indicated that, in terms of employment red tape, migration settings and the processes involved in securing immigrant or foreign labour are a significant barrier for industries, particularly those which are seasonal (such as agriculture and tourism and hospitality). This may be an area that the Senate Select Committee on Red Tape may wish to focus.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to reducing red tape and regulatory burden to make it easier to do business in the Territory.

MICHAEL GUNNER

20 APR 2018