



Australian Government

The Treasury

The Treasury
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Mr Jason McNamara
Executive Director
Office of Best Practice Regulation
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Dear Mr McNamara

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for the Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Bill2015 (the Bill).

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the feedback raised in your letter of 1 May 2015 and that the RIS now meets best practice, consistent with The Australian Government Guide to Regulation. Below is a summary of how we have addressed your comments.

Problem/Why is Government action required?

These sections have been revised to focus on the specific powers of the Ombudsman as proposed under the Bill and how these address the identified challenges for small businesses. These sections outline how the Ombudsman will complement and enhance the range of existing alternative dispute resolutions (ADR) services available to small businesses.

Options

This section now includes a summary of the specific powers of the Ombudsman as proposed under the Bill. It also clarifies that the Ombudsman's own ADR service will be on a user-pays basis.

Impacts

Discussion has been added on the potential behavioural change by small businesses in pursuing disputes with Commonwealth agencies and that a targeted communication and engagement strategy will mitigate the risk of confusion in the business community about the Ombudsman's remit.

Regulatory burden and transparency

The regulatory burden costs have been agreed by OBPR. The document clarifies that a RIS was provided to the decision makers at each of the major decision points in developing this initiative.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely


Jan Harris
Deputy Secretary

May2015