

# IPA MEDIA RELEASE

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## WA REGULATION GROWING FASTER THAN ANY OTHER STATE

Western Australian governments have increased the regulatory burden on the state's economy more rapidly than any other state, finds a major new report released today by the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and Institute of Public Affairs as a part of Project Western Australia.

*Over-ruled: How excessive regulation and legislation is holding back Western Australia* finds that the amount of new legislation passed in parliament has increased by an average of 158 pages per year, far more than any other state.

**Figure 1: Average yearly increase in pages of new legislation, 1998-2008**



"It is no surprise that Western Australia has developed an international reputation as the most over-regulated Australian state", report author Chris Berg, a Research Fellow with the Institute of Public Affairs, said.

"Complying with all these laws and regulations costs Western Australia \$2.1 billion a year – the equivalent of 2 per cent of gross state product."

The report finds that the hidden costs of regulation and regulatory complexity are seen by Western Australian businesses as a major restraint on growth. "Policy-makers might see the burden of individual regulations as relatively minor, but they add up," said Mr Berg.

*Over-ruled: How excessive regulation and legislation is holding back Western Australia* is available at [www.ipa.org.au](http://www.ipa.org.au)

### For further information and comment:

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