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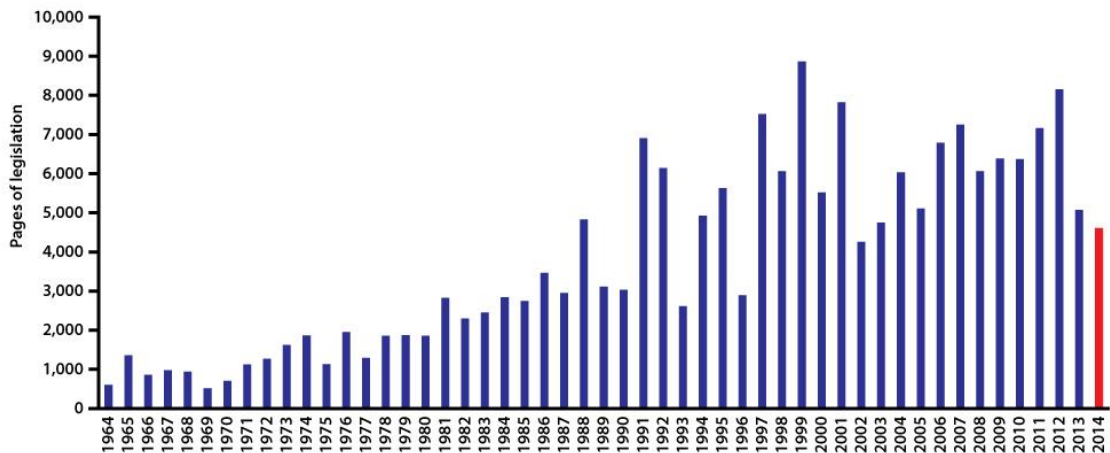
NEW RESEARCH SHOWS BENEFITS OF HOSTILE SENATE: PAGES OF LEGISLATION PASSED DECLINES BY 43% OVER 2 YEARS

The hostile Senate has helped slow the growth of government in Australians' lives, with the number of pages of Commonwealth legislation being passed declining for the second year in a row, according to new research released today by the Institute of Public Affairs.

"The number of pages of legislation passed has declined by 43 per cent over the past two years. It peaked at 8,150 pages in 2012, dropping to 5,069 pages in 2013, and dropping again to 4,607 pages in 2014," says James Paterson, Deputy Executive Director at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

"Not since 2002 has the government passed fewer pieces of legislation. While the government might be frustrated, having struggled to pass its reform agenda through the Senate, Australians can celebrate a reduction in the growth of government regulation ruling their lives."

Pages of Commonwealth legislation passed annually



Source: IPA

"The fact remains, however, that despite the government's troubles getting its legislation through the Senate, it still managed to pass 4,607 new pages of legislation in 2014. Every page of legislation passed is another layer of red-tape that every Australian must abide by."

"The government's red-tape reduction agenda is vitally important, but if it still passes thousands of pages of new laws every year, then Australian living standards and productivity will continue to suffer under a mountain of regulation," says Mr Paterson.

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