

# IPA MEDIA RELEASE

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## **AUSTRALIANS SAY THERE IS TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT REGULATION ON BUSINESS IPA CALLS FOR URGENT POLICY REFORM FOLLOWING EXCLUSIVE NEW POLL**

A new Galaxy poll, conducted exclusively for the Institute of Public Affairs, shows that 48% of Australians have said that there is too much government regulation on Australian businesses. Only 18% have said that there is not too much government regulation.

“Twice as many people think that there is too much government regulation on Australian businesses as those who think that there is not too much regulation,” says James Paterson, Deputy Executive Director at free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

Today’s poll highlights the growing red tape crisis in Australia. The IPA believes that the government needs to focus on three key areas of reform in order to reduce the current burden on business:

1. Stop adding to the problem by passing thousands of new pages of legislation each year. IPA research shows that in 2014, the federal parliament alone passed 4,607 pages of legislation.
2. Repeal the Fair Work Act. The re-regulation of the labour market by the previous government drives up the cost of doing business and makes it harder for employers and employees to negotiate agreements that suit them best.
3. Prioritise the enactment of the one-stop-shop for environmental approvals for major projects, currently awaiting approval by the Senate. Devolving environmental approvals to state governments and avoiding double-approvals will fast-track major projects and increase investment.

“There is now a red tape crisis. Australia runs the very real risk of losing new projects because of the compliance burdens companies’ face, and the problem is only getting worse.”

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry’s *2015 National Red Tape Survey*, released in February 2015, found that 96.7% of businesses reported that the regulatory burden on their business was either the same or higher than it was 12 months ago.

“The federal government has committed to red tape reform but not enough has yet been done. Urgent reform is needed if Australia wants to avoid another economic crisis,” says Mr Paterson.

The Galaxy online poll was conducted with 1,054 people aged 18 years of age and over, between Tuesday 24 February and Thursday 26 February 2015. The poll asked 1,054 people across all states: ‘In your opinion, is there too much government red tape on Australian businesses?’

***A full briefing document, including a detailed breakdown of the poll results and more information on the red tape emergency facing Australia, is available from the IPA at <http://ipa.org.au/publications/2342/mounting-evidence-of-a-red-tape-emergency-in-australia>.***

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