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New IPA report details enormous growth in environmental law

New research by the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs details the enormous growth in environmental law from 1971 to 2016.

The research paper by IPA research fellow Morgan Begg shows that Federal environmental departments administered 57 pages of legislation in 1971. In 2016 that number was 4,669 pages of legislation.

"The massive growth in federal environmental law places a significant burden on the economy," says Simon Breheny, Director of Policy at the IPA.

"The ability of investors to get major projects off the ground is threatened by red tape that constricts growth and puts jobs creation at risk."

"Analysis by the Institute of Public Affairs has shown that red tape costs Australia \$176 billion in foregone economic output."

"The government must look at ways to address Australia's red tape problem," said Mr Breheny.

For media and comment: Evan Mulholland, Media and Communications Manager, on 0405 140 780, or at emulholland@ipa.org.au

“Fifty-nine percent of Australian prisoners have been imprisoned before, and the best way to break this cycle of offending is employment,” said Mr Bushnell. “Barriers to employment like the high minimum wage and stringent licensing requirements do nothing for ex-prisoners’ chances of building a dignified life.”

Along with rising incarceration, American reformers have also addressed the widening scope of the criminal law. In Australia, many regulations in areas like finance and environmental management are backed by severe criminal penalties that regulators use to coerce individuals.

“Very often, regulatory criminal law is just another form of red tape that gets passed on to the consumer,” said Mr Bushnell. “This overreach is bad for the economy, undermines confidence in the criminal law, and diverts resources from where they would do more good for community safety.”

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