



REVIEW OF REGULATION IMPACTING SMALL BUSINESS RETAILERS

JULY 2016

REMOVING RED TAPE FOR SMALL RETAILERS

Cutting red tape and reducing regulatory burden on small business is a priority for the Victorian Government.

We want to reduce red tape by 25 per cent, to support the more than 541,000 small businesses in Victoria.

These businesses generate over 35 per cent of the value of Victoria's economy and employ nearly half of Victoria's private sector workforce.

We are starting by taking a look at what we can do to cut regulatory burden for retail small businesses.

Over the next two years we will also look at other sectors.

Why retail for this first review?

Retail is important – it employs over 500,000 people in Victoria and contributes over \$25 billion to the economy.

The industry has on average created 9000 new jobs each year over the past 15 years.

There are over 53,000 small retail businesses in Victoria, accounting for 95 per cent of the sector.

By making regulatory compliance simpler and easier for each of these business owners, we can make a big difference to their competitiveness.

The burden of regulation often falls on the shoulders of one person. The business owner who has to understand, manage and comply with the many different regulations.

Every hour of paperwork we can reduce, allows a business owner to spend an hour more focussed on growing their business or spending time with their families.

We are interested in the views of a wide range of retail businesses – fashion, hardware, electrical, cafés and restaurants, food, hairdressers, just to name a few. We are keen to understand your regulatory issues whether you operate from a high street, a shopping centre, a market stall, or if your business is online or mobile.

What do we want to know?

If your business is affected by regulations, we want to hear from you.

We also want to hear from advisors to small business owners including: industry associations, lawyers, consultants, bookkeepers, accountants and large retail franchises.

WE ARE HOPING THAT YOU CAN TELL US:

1. What's the problem?

Please tell us which regulations or requirements are the issue. What government bodies are responsible?

2. How does it affect your business?

Please tell us in general terms what impacts these regulations or requirements have on your business. For example, do they require extra reporting, cause delays, or prevent you from doing things in your business?

3. In what area(s) of Victoria does the issue occur?

4. How would you fix the problem?

Please tell us what changes you think could be made? How would these changes improve your business?

We are also interested in hearing about your experiences :

- > When you set up your business – how did you find out about regulations and try to make sense of it?
- > When you interacted with a regulator or permitting organisation – what was your experience with your local council, liquor licencing, Worksafe or any other organisation that provides permits or inspects your business?.

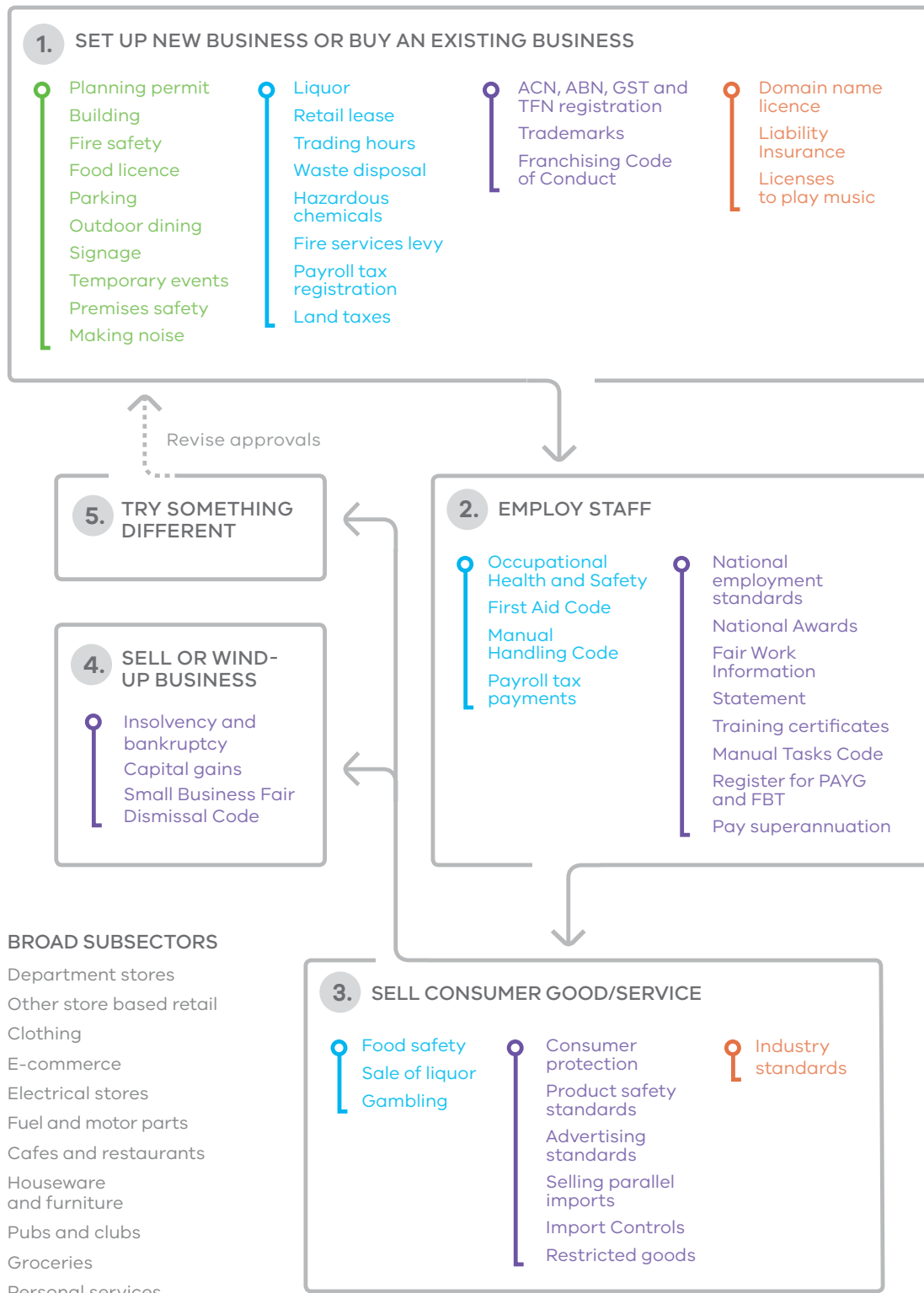
Which areas of regulation are we looking at?

The retail sector is subject to a wide range of regulation. Working out what applies and what you need to do if you try something new or want to expand can be a challenge.

We want to know what specific challenges – or good experiences – you have had when you have tried to do something. The picture below may help you pin-point particular areas.

“There are over 53,000 small retailers in Victoria, accounting for 95% of all retail businesses.”

Making sense of it all. What regulations apply and when do they kick in?



LEGEND



Tell us how red tape is impacting your business

How can you get involved?

To give us your views, you can get involved in any of the following ways:

1. Visit our website at:
vic.gov.au/smallbizreview
2. Write to us at:
smallbiz.review@ecodev.vic.gov.au
3. Attend a roundtable in Melbourne, Traralgon, Shepparton, Bendigo, Ballarat or Geelong – details available on our website.
4. Submit your ideas for reform to the Red Tape Commissioner's Red Tape Rubbish Bin at:
dtf.vic.gov.au/redtaperubbishbin

