



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scrapping red tape will add to Geelong jobs growth

Creating Geelong jobs will be easier for small business after the Federal Government moves to scrap costly, unnecessary and time consuming red tape and regulations in Parliament tomorrow (March 26), says Geelong Chamber of Commerce CEO Bernadette Uzelac.

Called 'Repeal Day', the Government will tomorrow repeal more than 9500 outdated and unnecessary regulations - an event Ms Uzelac says is long overdue for Geelong small business owners suffocating under the burden of red tape.

"Geelong small business has an important role to play in creating much needed new jobs for Geelong workers but business owners tell us time and time again that they are overburdened by unnecessary regulation", Ms Uzelac said.

"'Repeal Day' is the first step towards allowing small business owners to concentrate on what's important, and that is growing their businesses and creating new employment for the Geelong region."

The Geelong Chamber has joined industry groups from throughout Australia in calling for the Federal Government to continue to cut outdated and onerous regulations and supports the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI) in its ongoing campaign for regulatory reform.

"The Geelong Chamber stands shoulder-to-shoulder with VECCI in their push for change at both a Federal and State government level," Ms Uzelac said.

"The *Too Big to Ignore* campaign run by VECCI during last year's Federal Election campaign called for reform to remove counterproductive legislation, and the Geelong businesses who embraced and supported that campaign will be pleased to see this outcome.

"There is a real cost burden for Geelong business owners who spend hours doing unnecessary paperwork or are forced to pay staff or contractors to comply with irrelevant and outdated regulations," Ms Uzelac said.

"While Repeal Day will assist in alleviating the burden, we will be vigilant in continuing to push for reform. Geelong small business needs the best opportunity to grow into big business, which will provide increased job opportunities for the Geelong region."

The Federal Government has announced its intention to cut \$1billion in red tape every year during twice-yearly parliamentary Repeal Days. Documents were tabled in Federal Parliament last week that will allow more than 50,000 pages of legislation and regulations, costing businesses Australia-wide \$700million to administer, to be scrapped tomorrow.

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