

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. ADAM BROOKS MP

Redundant Legislation Repeal Bill 2016

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Madam Speaker, I now move that the Bill be read for a second time.

Cutting red tape has been a key part of the Government's overall strategy to build a stronger, more productive and diverse economy.

During 2015, the Government made significant inroads to reducing the regulatory burden for businesses, community organisations and ordinary Tasmanians.

In December of last year the Government released the *Tasmanian Red Tape Audit Report* which detailed over 70 red tape reforms.

Some of those red tape reforms had wide reaching benefits such as the move towards a single planning scheme.

Other red tape reforms were industry related such as extending the crop protection permits for farmers or simplification of quarantine procedures for passengers arriving in the state on the Spirit of Tasmania.

The Government has continued our commitment to reduce red tape in 2016 and ensure regulation is applied in the most efficient and effective way.

Further proof of our ongoing efforts to simplify and improve the regulatory environment was last month's introduction of the *Building Bill 2016* to streamline the building and approval process for a range of low risk structures such as sheds, carports and farm outbuildings.

Today, I introduce the *Redundant Legislation Repeal Bill 2016* to remove redundant legislation from the legislative landscape.

Madam Speaker, this Bill is specifically designed to repeal, revoke and rescind spent legislation that has been sitting on the legislative books.

Some of the legislation that has been identified as redundant has been superseded by more current legislation, whilst other legislation has simply passed its use by date and no longer serves an effective purpose.

The Bill identifies 114 Acts to be repealed and over 100 regulatory instruments that are spent and need to be rescinded.

This Bill will remove over 400 pages of redundant legislation from the books.

In the past, the amending legislation did not always include an automatic repeal provision.

As a result there is need to periodically bring in legislation to repeal redundant amending Acts.

The last substantial exercise conducted by this Parliament to clean house was back in 2000 when the *Statute Law Revision (Repeals) Act 2000* was passed.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the Bill I bring to the House today is long overdue.

The Bill contains three schedules, each dealing with different regulatory instruments.

Schedule 1 seeks to repeal primary legislation that is redundant such as the *Housing Indemnity Amendment Act 2008*.

Schedule 2 seeks to rescind statutory rules and bylaws that are spent such as the *Fisheries (Mackerel) Amendment Rules 2007*.

Schedule 3 seeks to revoke proclamations that have expired and serve no useful purpose such as the *Proclamation under the Fluoridation Amendment Act 2009*.

In assessing what legislation should be repealed or retained, the Red Tape Reduction Coordinator has liaised with each Ministerial Office and subject matter experts from relevant agencies.

The original list of potentially redundant legislation was compiled by the Parliamentary Research Office and then vetted and in many cases added to by the respective agencies.

The final inclusions were then considered by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to ensure there were no unintended consequences.

Madam Speaker, this Bill is testament to our government's ongoing commitment to reduce the amount of unnecessary regulation in the Tasmanian regulatory landscape.

Embarking on this systematic process has required a whole of government approach to reviewing redundant legislation and ensuring we retain only that regulation that is absolutely necessary.

Ultimately, we need to get the regulatory settings right so that we can empower rather than impede business agility and investment while being mindful of protecting the public safety through an appropriate mix of consumer, health and environmental safeguards.

This Bill is another important step in reducing red tape in Tasmania and I commend the Bill to the House.