

The recently published draft study into Regulator Engagement with Small Business is a breath of fresh air.

It is clear that the authors of the study both listened to input from the SB Community and understood the very real frustrations and costs that excessive compliance requirements places on SB owners.

The draft study and recommendations are supported and endorsed.

Specifically the key issues that concern the small business community in Tasmania include:

- being flexible and proportionate in enforcement, with a consistent focus on outcomes
- minimise unnecessary compliance and reporting costs imposed on small business, including the cumulative burden derived from engagement with multiple regulators
- understand the needs and constraints of small business generally and those specific to their business or industry.

We also wish to highlight the desirability of achieving effective communication. Put simply, if regulators want to talk to us – talk to us. Don't just put something up on a website and expect that somehow we will know it is there, go looking for it, find and understand it, and recognise that the actions demanded will be of value to our businesses. Among the most effective means of communication is to address us through our trade associations.

Please remember that a small business owner is in business to run the business and not to satisfy the whims of government regulators through practices that are time consuming, non productive, often irrelevant and in many cases cost us money to fulfill. The recent studies by Victoria University and funded by Treasury provide very specific information on the disproportionate costs of compliance to small business. Some figures quoted in the Victoria University study suggested that “average overall compliance costs ... for firms with turnover less than \$100,000 was \$2.71 per \$1,000 of turnover, compared to \$0.60 for a medium sized enterprise with turnover between \$100,000 and \$9,999,999”

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