

# Turning Around the Titanic

**THE COALITION'S PLAN TO SOLVE AUSTRALIA'S  
RED TAPE EMERGENCY**

*ISSUES PAPER*

We believe Australian business is being stifled by excessive regulation.

We do not believe the Federal Government has done enough to mitigate against this.

We believe regulation can be necessary but it needs to be applied where it is genuinely needed.

Robert Menzies said:

*“We do not believe that governments create prosperity, rather governments provide controls.”*

This remains our philosophy and position.

The red tape bonanza is damaging investment and employment opportunities. It is also changing the character of Australia and exposing the nation to enormous risk.

# *An Ugly Picture*

The data tells the story. Australia is changing, and not for the better:

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**1**

In its first term, the Albanese government introduced 5,034 new regulations into the Australian economy

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**2**

The total number of Acts currently in force in Australia is 1,241. In New Zealand it is 1,057. In Canada it is just 880

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**3**

In its first term of government, the Albanese Government passed 400 new laws

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**4**

The total cost of complying with Labor's new laws is \$4.8 billion

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**5**

Labor has gutted the federal office that oversees regulatory analysis, the Office of Impact Analysis, with its headcount reducing from 21 to 16 in just 3 years.

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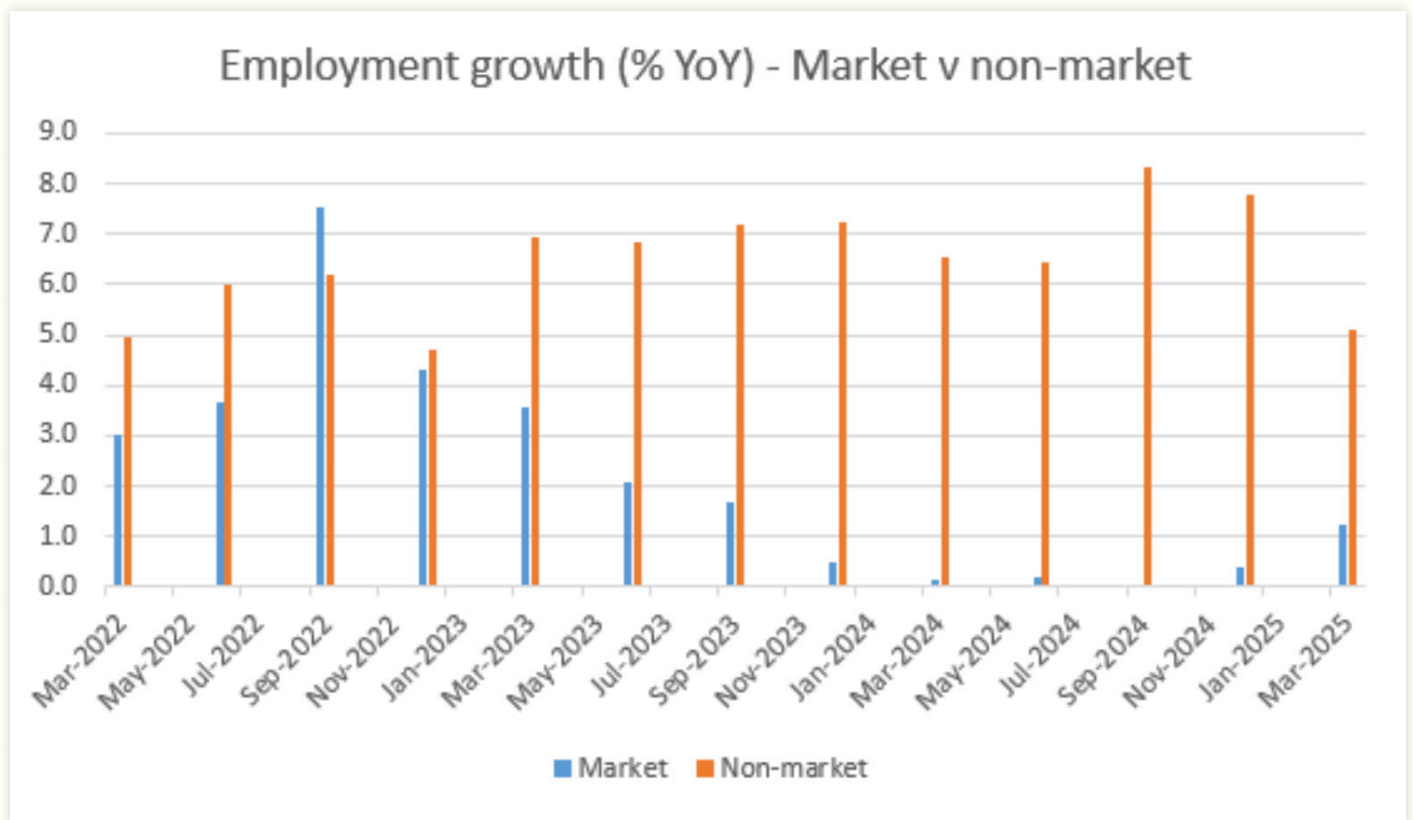
The National Audit Office said back in 2014:

*The total annual cost of all Australian Government regulation was around \$65 billion per year, or about 4.2 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product.”*

Since 2014, 1,530 laws have been passed by the Parliament. If it was nearly 5 per cent of GDP in 2014, it is now closer to 10 per cent.

In the past few weeks, the Productivity Commission's interim report into “Creating a more dynamic and resilient economy” states this regulatory impact plainly:

While regulation can protect against harms, too much, or inappropriate, regulation can disproportionately inhibit economic dynamism and resilience. Australia's regulatory burden has grown – businesses report spending more and more on regulatory compliance, and Australia has fallen on key international regulation indexes.



Simultaneously, government spending is also crowding out the private sector.

Around 80% of employment growth in the last 2 years has been in the non-market sector, despite it accounting for around 30% of employment.

The Albanese Government's economic and financial management is leading Australia's competitive position to erode.

The 2025 World Competitiveness Rankings report shows:

- ↓ Australia's ranking is 18th, down from 13th in 2024
- ↓ Total business efficiency ranking is 37th, down from 22nd in 2024
- ↓ Our productivity & efficiency ranking is 49th

# Labor's Regulatory Quagmire

The federal office dedicated to analysing regulation is the Office of Impact Analysis (OIA). The OIA is the latest adaptation of the original Business Regulation Review Unit established in 1985.

The OIA sits inside the Prime Minister's Department and all government decisions on regulatory matters which are more than minor in nature require an Impact Analysis (IA).

The OIA is meant to be the guardrail preventing unnecessary compliance costs slowing down business.

Under Labor, the OIA has seen its headcount fall from 21 people to 16 in just 3 years.

The Productivity Commission has been scathing in its latest report on the OIA under Labor, and has recommended strengthening the independence of the body.

The OIA under Labor has been a disaster.

There has been no meaningful push by the Government to curb regulation. Instead, they have increased it.

In their first term, Labor introduced 5,034 new regulations into the Australian economy.

The government don't seem to care about the impact of their over-regulation on the economy.

The cost of complying with the new laws initiated by the Albanese Government during their first term has reached \$4.8 billion.

This is the total cost of the government's own impact analysis statements, and is likely underestimated.

This is money that should be spent on growing businesses. Instead, it's being spent on compliance.

Portfolio	First Albanese Ministry (23/5/2022 - 13/5/2025)
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	199
Attorney-General's	184
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	368
Defence	130
Education	133
Employment and Workplace Relations	153
Finance	264
Foreign Affairs and Trade	93
Health, Disability and Ageing	958
Home Affairs	376
Industry, Science and Resources	82
Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	646
Prime Minister and Cabinet	106
Social Services	81
Treasury	891
Veterans' Affairs	370
Total	5034

# *Our Approach*

We will develop a substantial deregulation agenda which relieves the red tape burden.

There will be two components:

## **1. Whole of Government Rules**

Our deregulation policy requires a whole-of-government approach. Under Sussan Ley, we understand this.

That's why Sussan Ley has created my portfolio of productivity and deregulation. This is now a priority for the entire Coalition team.

Our deregulation policy will reflect the timeless position articulated by Sir Robert Menzies that "governments do not provide enterprise; they provide controls."

We will promote genuine enterprise with limited, rather than repressive controls.

Moreover, we will be actively looking for opportunities for industry to self-regulate. This isn't always possible or desirable, but it should absolutely be considered.

## **2. Priority sectors**

The red tape burden has significantly impacted the lives of Australians across the economy, but there are areas where the impact is particularly felt.

We propose the following initial priority areas for deregulation:

- Housing and construction
- Financial services
- Resources and energy

# *What we are seeking*

We now seek your feedback on this approach and these priorities.

We seek your ideas, insights and research.

Send your ideas to **[deregulation@andrewbragg.com](mailto:deregulation@andrewbragg.com)** by 30 October 2025