

## RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE OR AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION – 2020-21 PAEC Budget Estimates – Minister for Regulatory Reform

1. **Question:** can you give me an idea of what the savings for small construction businesses were out of that?

*(Asked by Mr O'Brien on page 6 of the transcript)*

*Transcript extract:*

**Mr PEARSON:** Yes, that was in relation to councils. Often I think that councils are where many small businesses tend to interface, and I think if you look at it from a small business perspective, their engagement with state government would be through maybe the SRO through payroll tax or land tax, WorkCover, or maybe if there is an issue around a main road they might have an issue. To some extent our engagement with business and an ongoing dialogue with business is probably less than the other two tiers of government, if you follow.

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Yes. Well, with one specific sector that did touch state government—the construction sector review last year—can you give me an idea of what the savings for small construction businesses were out of that?

**Mr PEARSON:** I am not sure, Mr O'Brien. I will just see if I can provide you with some information on that. I might need to take that on notice, Mr O'Brien.

### Response

The Nous Group estimated that these initiatives would provide benefits of between \$21.3 million and \$42.6 million per year to small construction businesses. The benefits represent time and money that will be saved directly by small businesses in the construction sector.

It is expected that implementing the Small Business Regulatory Engagement Charter and the Small Business Profile will deliver significant additional benefits to small construction businesses as well as businesses in other sectors.

**2. Question: could you give an idea of what the actual savings for a small retail business were?**

*(Asked by Mr O'Brien on page 6)*

*Transcript extract:*

**Mr PEARSON:** Yes, that was in relation to councils. Often I think that councils are where many small businesses tend to interface, and I think if you look at it from a small business perspective, their engagement with state government would be through maybe the SRO through payroll tax or land tax, WorkCover, or maybe if there is an issue around a main road they might have an issue. To some extent our engagement with business and an ongoing dialogue with business is probably less than the other two tiers of government, if you follow.

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Yes. Well, with one specific sector that did touch state government—the construction sector review last year—can you give me an idea of what the savings for small construction businesses were out of that?

**Mr PEARSON:** I am not sure, Mr O'Brien. I will just see if I can provide you with some information on that. I might need to take that on notice, Mr O'Brien.

**Mr D O'BRIEN:** Okay. Well, likewise, I have only got 30 seconds left, but the retail sector review, which sat alongside that—both were run through, I think, Engage Victoria—could you give an idea of what the actual savings for a small retail business were?

**Mr PEARSON:** I am not sure whether I would have that granular level of detail, but I will endeavour to try and provide information to the committee about the outcome of those reviews and provide any information relevant to that.

**Response**

KPMG estimated that these initiatives would benefit small retail businesses between \$74 million and \$131 million per annum once fully implemented.

Specific benefits from the reform include reduced approval times for multiple permit requests, reduced application forms for multiple permits, and reduced footpath trading permit approval times.