



Office of the Secretary

Our ref: BN18/3066

Mr Matthew Sedgwick
Consumer and Corporations Policy Division
The Treasury

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Dear Mr Sedgwick

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Treasury Consultation Paper: *Modernising Business Registers Program – Review of Registry Fees*.

The Department of Finance, Services and Innovation (DFSI) maintains a strong interest in the management of business registers such as companies' information and business names as this State's primary consumer protection regulator and as the regulator of organisations such as co-operatives and incorporated associations.

It is noted that as part of its program to modernise the business registers administered by the Commonwealth, Treasury is exploring ways to make fees simpler, easier to understand and more equitable. DFSI welcomes measures that reduce red-tape and compliance costs, particularly for small business.

The Consultation Paper indicates that Government agencies require real time access to registers for public purposes and 'we expect that Government agencies will not be charged to access registry data in keeping with the Government's Open Data Policy'¹. DFSI supports a continuation of this approach which is based on a number of long standing exemptions and concessional arrangements that have developed over a number of years. These arrangements are in part based on key initiatives such as open data policies or form part of historical national arrangements for the transfer of state and territory responsibilities to the Commonwealth.

Please contact Mr Norman Cossey, Manager, Cabinet Liaison on (02) 9219 3781 or via email at norman.cossey@finance.nsw.gov.au if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Routledge
Executive Director
Office of the Secretary

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¹ Attachment E *Background on proposed infrastructure fee* (page 26)