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Senate Select Committee on Red Tape
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Dear Senators

SUBMISSION TO THE RED TAPE COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECT OF RED TAPE ON THE SALE, SUPPLY AND TAXATION OF ALCOHOL

I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the Red Tape Committee's inquiry. The Victorian Government strongly supports efforts to reduce red tape in Australia. The costs incurred by business and the community in dealing with excessive regulatory requirements are an unacceptable burden. This is why we are committed to reducing the burden of red tape on Victorians by 25 per cent by November 2018.

The split of regulatory responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states on the sale, supply and taxation of alcohol appears to be clear and without unnecessary overlap. The taxation of alcohol is the Commonwealth's responsibility, while the regulation of alcohol retailing is the responsibility of the states. The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that alcohol is supplied in a manner that minimises harm from alcohol misuse while recognising the benefits of a responsible and diverse liquor industry to Victoria.

As part of this commitment, we are taking steps to reduce the burden of red tape on the sale and supply of liquor in Victoria. The Department of Justice and Regulation is conducting a review of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*. It has recently published the submissions received from the public as part of this review. The Victorian Government will soon receive the Department's report on these submissions.

The Victorian Government is committed to best practice red tape reduction across the whole economy. To this end we have appointed a Red Tape Commissioner and a Commissioner for Better Regulation. The Red Tape Commissioner consults with Victoria's business community to identify opportunities to cut red tape and improve regulators' dealings with businesses. The Commissioner for Better Regulation advises the Victorian Government on the adequacy of regulatory and legislative impact assessments and opportunities to improve regulation. Both contribute to the Victorian Government's commitment to reduce the burden of red tape on Victorians.

Thank you again for inviting me to contribute to the Red Tape Committee's inquiry. The Victorian Government is interested in seeing the report and accompanying recommendations resulting from this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

TIM PALLAS MP

Treasurer

31 JAN 2017