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Senator Mark Bishop
Chair, Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


Dear Senator Bishop

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the inquiry into the exposure draft of the Business Names Legislative Package, consisting of the following:

- *Business Names Registration Bill 2011,*
- *Business Names Registration (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2011,* and
- *Business Names Registration (Fees) Bill 2011.*

As Minister for Small Business, I am responsible for supporting a dynamic and sustainable small business sector and I remain strongly committed to establishing and facilitating initiatives that reduce red tape and help ensure our small businesses continue to be forward-looking and resilient.

You would be aware that South Australia is a signatory to the National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy agreed through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

I recognise the introduction of a National Business Names Register is an important initiative to reduce the cost of regulation and enhance productivity and workforce mobility in areas of shared Commonwealth, state and territory responsibility.

The proposed legislative changes are expected to provide an increased level of business certainty and a reduced burden on businesses, particularly in light of the associated cost savings and broader management benefits.

My department has not identified any objections on the grounds of negative impact on business.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this important initiative and look forward to the next stage of the process to transition to the National Business Names Registration Regime.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP
Minister for Small Business

4 August 2011