

Progress of Economic Reform Roundtable – February 2026

There were ten actions announced following the roundtable, significant progress has been made to deliver those actions.

1. Abolishing more nuisance tariffs, subject to consultation

- Consultation following the Treasurer's announcement that the Government will abolish another 500 nuisance tariffs closed on 10 December 2025. Government is considering the submissions.

2. Reducing complexity and red tape in the National Construction Code.

- The relevant portfolio Ministers announced that the government will:
 - pause and streamline the National Construction Code
 - fast track assessment on more than 26,000 homes currently under EPBC Act consideration.
- Treasury is consulting on a discussion paper on streamlining and modernising the code which will close on 27 February 2026.
- The Housing Minister has appointed three project leads (Rebecca Billings, David McCarthy, Dan O'Brien) to support the delivery of the report and engagement with industry.

3. Accelerating *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) reform in line with the principles from the Samuel review.

- The Environment Protection Reform Act, implementing the Government's EPBC Act reforms, passed the Parliament on 28 November 2025 and received Royal Assent on 1 December 2025.
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is developing a related best-practice guide and guidelines.

4. Dealing with a backlog of environmental approvals for new homes.

- As of 4 February 2026, nearly 17,000 new homes had been approved through national environmental laws as a direct result of the immediate action to establish a housing strike team within the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

5. Releasing the letters for regulators on opportunities for better regulation, with the Council of Financial Regulators to coordinate actions and lift ambition for financial sector regulators

- The letters from 38 Commonwealth regulators containing more than 400 ideas to reduce regulatory burden and support productivity growth – were published in September 2025.
- An Implementation Plan of commitments from the letters was published by the Council of Financial Regulators in December 2025.

6. Introducing a bill on regulatory reform, including 'tell us once'

- The Regulatory Reform Omnibus Bill, including the 'tell us once' reforms, passed the Parliament on 27 November 2025.

7. Developing an APS AI plan

- The Government released the APS AI Plan in November 2025. The plan provides the platform for public servants to have foundational training, support, access and guidance needed to use AI tools safely and responsibly.

8. Accelerating work on a national AI capability plan, including national interest principles for data centres

- The National AI Plan was released on 2 December 2025. The plan intends to accelerate the broad development and adoption of AI, capture opportunities and spread benefits of AI, and keep Australia safe as they engage with AI.

9. Commencing the Investor Front Door pilot in September

- The Government launched the pilot of the Investor Front Door in September 2025.

10. Working with states on road user charging

- On 5 September 2025, the Treasurer issued a joint statement with State counterparts outlining their approach to road user charging.
- At the 28 November 2025 Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR meeting), Treasurers discussed progress on road user charging policy design.

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Package	Commitment Immediate action future work	Portfolio/Minister	Timing	Shadow area; Contact	Status and next steps On track At risk Delayed	Authority (reference for existing or related authority)
Single National Market	Road User Charging	Minister C King, jointly with the Treasurer and Minister Bowen.	s 47C	PITCD/RUCU s 22	On track Discussed with states at CFFR 28 November where Treasurers discussed the work currently being led by the Commonwealth on RUC. s 47C	s 22
	Expand NCP: 1. Int standards 2. National Worker Screening Check 3. National licensing 4. Speeding up approvals 5. Heavy vehicles	Treasurer/ Min Gallagher (1,2) Minister Bowen (4) Minister Watt (3) Minister C King (5)	s 47C	CCPD/NCP s 22 for 1- 3. s 22 for HVs (5) s 22 (Front Door) and s 22 (LEIID) for speeding up approvals	On track Agreed at CFFR 5 September. s 47C	s 22

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						s 22
Simplifying trade and tariffs	Abolish more nuisance tariffs	Treasurer/Minister Farrell	s 47C	LEIID/ISTEM s 22	On track Consultation closed on 10 December 2025. Government is considering the submissions.	s 22
	Simplifying trade systems	Ministers Farrell/Burke/Collins	s 47C	LEIID/ISTEM s 22	On track Policy development ongoing between ABF, Austrade, Home Affairs and DAFF as needed	s 22
	Consider the trusted trader program	Minister Burke/Minister Farrell	s 47C	LEIID/ISTEM s 22	On track Policy development ongoing between ABF and Home Affairs as needed. s 47C	s 22
Better regulation roadmap and legislative workstream	Release regulator letters	Treasurer/Minister Gallagher	5 September	Taskforce	Complete	s 22
	CFR undertake a coordinating role to lift ambition	Treasurer/Minister Mulino	Commenced August 2025. Implementation Plan of	Better Regulation Roadmap FSD/REPU s 22	On track CFR working group established and 3 initial priority areas identified:	s 22

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	Could include consideration of tech tools to reduce compliance costs A financial services regulatory reform bill will be considered for progression as part of this CFR process.		commitments from regulator letters published in December 2025. Data harmonisation and sharing lead by ASIC and APRA. In progress, for consideration by CFR Heads in March 2026. Targeting March 2026 announcement on legislative reforms (TBC with TO).	<u>Legislative</u> <u>workstream</u> CCU/DPCD s 22	- Implementation of commitments; - data harmonisation and sharing, and - identifying priority legislative reforms that support the government's better regulation agenda. A draft list of potential reform ideas, which were refined following regulator feedback, was provided to the TO on 28 January 2026. Consultation with stakeholders on list of legislative reform ideas to inform advice to Government ahead of March 2026 announcement (TBC with TO).	
	Introduce regulatory reform bill 'tell us once'	Minister Gallagher	End of year	FSD/REPU s 22	Complete Regulatory Reform Omnibus Bill introduced 8 October	N/A
	Further work on 'tell us once' and broader	Minister Gallagher/ Mulino in corporate context	2026	FSD in corporate context	On track	Charter letters outline broader regulatory reform work

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	regulatory reform agenda			FSD/REPU s 22 DPCD/CCU on wider regulatory reform	Data included in above CFR work. Will be a focus over next 6 months. FM's letter to PM on regulatory reform agenda on track for October	
	Deep dives for priority sectors to deal with regulatory thickets	Minister Gallagher/Treasurer	s 47C	Relevant policy area in Treasury based on deep dive CFR – FSD/REPU s 22	On track s 47C	s 22
	Update Statements of Expectations for all Commonwealth regulators	Treasurer/Minister Gallagher	Subject to the Treasurer's agreement, five SOEs in the Treasury portfolio by the end of 2025. Additional Treasury portfolio SOEs to be updated in the first half of 2026.	FSD/REPU. Responsible Ministers (across the Cth) must update SoEs. s 22	On track The Minister for Finance wrote to Ministers in later October asking them to endeavour to reissue SoEs by the end of 2025. Treasury has provided advice to the TO considering how best to respond to this request, including prioritising which SoEs to update. Awaiting response from Treasurer	Advice provided to Treasurer on updating portfolio SoEs. Awaiting response s 22 s 22

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					ahead of reporting to Department of Finance in mid Feb.	
	PC to give options on best way to measure progress on better regulation around the world	Treasurer	The final report of the PC's inquiry into 'Creating a more dynamic and resilient economy' is due to be provided to Government in December 2025.	MAPD/PPU s 22	Delivered This was delivered as part of the PC's report on 'Creating a more dynamic and resilient economy,' provided to Government (and published) in December 2025.	Nil
Speeding up approvals in national priority areas	Accelerate the introduction of EPBC Act before the end of 2025	Minister Watt	Legislation received Royal Assent on 1 December 2025.	LEIID s 22	On track – Delivered.	Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 s 22
	Improve access to existing rapid EPBC Act assessment pathway	Minister Watt	Legislation received Royal Assent on 1 December 2025. DCCEEW finalising details of new environmental laws and updating guidance.	LEIID s 22	On track DCCEEW developing best practice guide and guidelines to help access this pathway.	Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025 s 22
	Consult on a coordinator-general function	Treasurer	As per announcement, consultation to occur in 2026.	Investor Front Door Regulatory Policy Unit s 22	On track Consultation to occur in early 2026. Developing arrangements for consultation, flagged	Announced s 22

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					this upcoming work with state counterparts.	
Building more homes more quickly	Modernising and streamlining the National Construction Code Includes: Pause residential changes to the code until mid-2029 (save essential safety and quality changes), following the finalisation of NCC 2025. During the pause, work will be undertaken to remove barriers to modern methods of construction and streamline the code to make it easier to understand and apply as well as improve how the code are developed.	Minister O'Neil	Already announced. Building Ministers agreed the pause and scope of the project at the 22 Oct 2025 BMM meeting.	Housing s 22	On track On 5 September, CFFR agreed broadly to the pause and for BMM to undertake work to identify ways to remove regulatory barriers. Ag On 22 October, BMM agreed project scope. Building Ministers to provide update to CFFR in November 2025, with future updates on an as needed basis. On 15 December 2025, Treasury launched a discussion paper which will close on 27 February 2025. The Housing Minister has appointed three project leads to support the delivery of the report as well as engagement with industry. They are: • Rebecca Billings • David McCarthy and;	Announced (Building Ministers' Meeting Communique on 22 October 2025)

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					Dan O'Brien	
	Establish a strike team within DCCEEW to fast-track EPBC consideration of 26,000 homes currently under assessment	Minister O'Neil/Minister Watt	Commence immediately	Housing/LEIID s 22	On track Strike team established and 16,949 homes approved since the round table .	Announced s 22
Making artificial intelligence a national priority	APS AI plan	Minister Gallagher	End of year	DPCD/ISB s 22	On track	Announced
	National AI Capability Plan, including national interest principles for data centres	Minister Ayres, in consultation with relevant Ministers	s 34	DPCD DPU (National AI Plan)/LEIID EAU (Data centres) s 22	On track	National AI Plan announced
	Undertake gap analysis	Relevant Ministers, with coordination by Minister Ayres as required	Ongoing	DCPD s 22	On track Builds on ongoing reviews of regulatory frameworks (health, Australian Consumer Law, copyright) and BAU administration of laws ACL Review released 3 October. Ministers will map their portfolio responsibilities to	Nil. s 22

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					known AI harms and any legislative reforms underway, s 34 Productivity Commission may endorse a gap analysis in its final report on 13 December	
Attracting capital and deploying investment	Investor Front Door	Treasurer	Pilot commenced on 1 September 2025	Investor Front Door Policy Unit s 22	On track Investor Front Door launched on 1 September. s 34	s 22
	Streamline the Foreign Investment Framework (formerly 'streamline Foreign Investment Review Board processes')	Treasurer	Authority for 26-27 Budget policy decisions; aiming for exposure draft of legislation in 2026 and introduction / finalisation of reforms in 2027	FID s 22	On track Public consultation on key issues and proposed legislative reforms to the foreign investment framework concluded on 12 December 2025. s 34	s 22

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	Consult on changes to the super performance test	Treasurer	Consultation ongoing	RISD s 22	On track Treasurer authority to consult received S 22 s 47C	s 22
	Consider potential changes to SIVs	Minister Gallagher	s 22	BPD s 22	On track s 34	s 22
Building a skilled and adaptable workforce	Jobs and Skills Councils	Minister Clare/Minister Giles	No current process of reform.	LEIID s 22		Nil
	Recognise prior learning and qualifications	Minister Clare/Minister Giles	RPL pilot was an election	LEIID	On track Pilot of Advanced Entry Trades Training Program as	Yes.

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			commitment and agreed via letters. CFFR discussion occurred on 28 November 2025. The CFFR working group met on 19 December 2025, and will next meet mid-February 2025.	s 22	an election commitment. Outcomes of pilot could be considered in a future process. Treasurer took a paper to CFFR which included discussion of further opportunities to promote migrant skills recognition, including recognition of prior learning CFFR working group is in early stages of considering reforms to improve recognition of migrant skills. s 47C	s 22
	Joining up the tertiary system	Minister Clare/Minister Giles	The Australian Tertiary Education Commission has been tasked with leading the development of a tertiary system Roadmap.	LEIID s 22	On track s 47C Treasury has engaged via PMC.	

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	TAFE self-accreditation	Minister Giles	TBC	LEIID s 22	On track ASQA is reviewing its future approach to delegating the course accreditation function, with careful consideration given to sector readiness, resources, and mechanisms to uphold accredited courses integrity and quality.	Nil.
	Credit transfer	Minister Clare/Minister Giles	Being investigated by ATEC.	LEIID s 22	On track Credit transfer is incorporated as a theme / priority in the Tertiary Roadmap, which is currently underway. Work is also underway on an update to the AQF Pathways Policy.	N/A.
	Points test	Minister Burke	s 47C	LEIID s 22	On track s 47C	s 22

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			s 47C		s 47C	
	AI capability – recs 5-10	Minister Ayres, Minister Clare and Minister Giles	Considered in the context of the National AI Plan s 34	LEIID/DCPD s 22	On Track Government has tasked the Future Skills Organisation (FSO) to consult on AI skills development. s 47C s 47C	s 22
A better tax system	A fair go for working people	Treasurer	Principles to guide future work	RG/TFU s 22	On track Treasury is progressing internal work to support development of principles to guide future work and will provide further briefing.	Nil
	Incentivise business investment	Treasurer	Principles to guide future work	RG/TFU s 22		Nil
	A simpler, more sustainable system	Treasurer	Principles to guide future work	RG/TFU s 22		Nil
Modernising government services	Modernise procurement	Minister Gallagher	No existing process	CCPD/Non-competes Unit s 22	On track Amendments have been made to the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (CPRs) to facilitate information sharing with the ACCC for compliance activities.	Nil

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	Better use data	Minister Gallagher	No existing process	CCPD/Non-competes Unit s 22	On track As above, changes to the CPRs is one step to promoting the better use of Government data.	Nil
	Consider the outcomes of the DAT Act	Minister Gallagher	By 2026	DCPD/LD s 22	On track Review is complete. Finance has advised it will be tabled, likely in early 2026 and response subject to Cabinet consideration.	Nil