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WA REGULATION GROWING FASTER THAN ANY OTHER STATE

Western Australian governments have increased the regulatory burden on the state's economy more rapidly than any other state, finds a major new report released today by the Mannkal Economic Education Foundation and Institute of Public Affairs as a part of Project Western Australia.

Over-ruled: How excessive regulation and legislation is holding back Western Australia finds that the amount of new legislation passed in parliament has increased by an average of 158 pages per year, far more than any other state.

Figure 1: Average yearly increase in pages of new legislation, 1998-2008



"It is no surprise that Western Australia has developed an international reputation as the most over-regulated Australian state", report author Chris Berg, a Research Fellow with the Institute of Public Affairs, said.

"Complying with all these laws and regulations costs Western Australia \$2.1 billion a year – the equivalent of 2 per cent of gross state product."

The report finds that the hidden costs of regulation and regulatory complexity are seen by Western Australian businesses as a major restraint on growth. "Policy-makers might see the burden of individual regulations as relatively minor, but they add up," said Mr Berg.

Over-ruled: How excessive regulation and legislation is holding back Western Australia is available at www.ipa.org.au

For further information and comment:

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