JOINT PRESS RELEASE

THE HON. GREG HUNT MP, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
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COMMONWEALTH AND NEW SOUTH WALES SIGN ONE-STOP SHOP BILATERAL AGREEMENT

The Federal and New South Wales governments have today signed a new bilateral agreement to create a single environmental assessment process.

This follows New South Wales signing a Memorandum of Understanding last month to work towards implementing the One-Stop Shop approvals process.

Today’s signing is another important milestone in achieving the Australian Government’s commitment to reducing the regulatory burden on business.

This agreement puts in place a single assessment process, thereby reducing unnecessary duplication while still maintaining high environmental standards.

The next step will be to accredit New South Wales environmental approval systems under national environmental law.

This will create a single approval process to satisfy both New South Wales and Federal requirements for environmental regulation. It’s about cutting red and green tape, without compromising environmental standards and protections.

No longer will projects have to undergo a rigorous state assessment process, and then have to start all over again and go through the same process at Federal level.

The Australian Government has now signed Memoranda of Understanding with all states and territories, and is now working to complete the second stage of this reform by establishing new assessment bilateral agreements with all jurisdictions.

The Australian Government has committed to having the one-stop shop arrangements implemented with willing states and territories by September 2014.

The establishment of a One-Stop Shop will deliver a real boost to the nation’s economy while ensuring that our environment continues to be protected.

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