



**MINISTER FOR COMMERCE; SCIENCE AND INNOVATION; HOUSING;
MINISTER ASSISTING THE TREASURER**

Our Ref: 42-01134

Oliver Moon
Chief Executive Officer
Combined Small Business Alliance WA
PO Box 253
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Mr Moon

HAIRDRESSERS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT AND EXPIRY) BILL 2010

I refer to your letter to the Premier, dated 2 July 2010 on behalf of one of your members, the Master Ladies Hairdressers Association ('the MLHA'), regarding the Hairdressers Registration (Amendment and Expiry) Bill 2010. The Premier has asked me to respond to your letter on his behalf.

Review of the hairdressing industry

I note in your letter that your organisation supports the request by the MLHA to meet with myself and the Premier. I regret that we are unable to meet with the MLHA at this time, however, would like to assure you that the views of stakeholders, including the MLHA, were obtained as part of the review of the hairdressing industry and were considered in the Government making its decision.

In July 2006, a position paper titled *Regulation of the Hairdressing Industry in Western Australia* was released. The paper contained a number of proposals to deal with the regulation of hairdressers. The position paper was advertised and distributed broadly and letters were sent to all registered hairdressers inviting comment. From the submissions received, there was clear majority support for abolition of the Board.

Rationale for the Government's proposal

In reaching a decision, the Government also noted key findings of the review, particularly that:

- the legislative provisions are outdated and impose compliance costs on industry;
- the financial risks of dealing with hairdressers is low, in comparison with other registered or licensed occupations;

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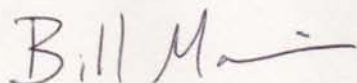
- existing legislation dealing with consumer protection, health and safety and education addresses issues that may arise; and
- there is a lack of consistency in regulation within WA and across jurisdictions, which limits the mobility of labour and the ability of business to respond to market conditions.

Importantly the Government's proposal addresses the Red Tape Reduction Group's recommendation to repeal the *Hairdressers Registration Act 1946* and abolish the Board. The proposal is also consistent with the Premier's commitment to review and rationalise the number of statutory boards and committees in the public sector.

In relation to the hairdressing industry, I am confident that a competitive market, in conjunction with laws that are tailored to address potential issues that might arise from time to time, will provide appropriate protection to consumers and will reward efficient and dynamic small businesses.

I trust that the information provided clarifies the Government's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill Marmion MLA
MINISTER FOR COMMERCE

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