



OFFICIAL

Attachment A - Regulatory Reform Opportunities

1. Review of Transport Security Program approval process

Summary of action:	Early initial approval of Transport Security to enable industry to rapidly invest and implement security reforms. Currently industry participants are required to develop these under the <i>Aviation Transport Security Act 2004</i> and they are to be approved by the department taking significant time. Early approval will be supplemented by post approval assurance activities instead of laborious and elongated approvals.
How it will uplift productivity and/or economic growth:	This will provide industry with certainty to make early investments in security uplift, as well as reduce the red tape associated with lengthy approval processes to develop Transport Security Plans. This process currently takes months.
The size, scope and impact the action will have:	Changes will impact entities who are required to have a Transport Security Plan under the <i>Aviation Transport Security Act 2004</i> as well as the department as the administrator. Consultation will reduce negative impact on industry with regard to adjusting to changes.
When the action will be implemented or take effect:	Industry consultation will occur in Q1 and Q2 of 2025–26. Implementation of any changes will occur in the second half of 2025–26 following the consultation phase. Regulatory changes may require a longer implementation period.
How any trade-offs or risks will be managed:	Changes may place a short-term administrative burden on the department, but will reduce the overall burden in the longer term for both government and industry.
Suitable for public commitment/announcement:	No

2. Best practice guidance for Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 regulated entities

Summary of action:	Co-design guidance indicating what the department considers best practice in regards to risk mitigation strategies and compliance with <i>Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018</i> (SOCI Act). This will provide clarity of industry where regulatory settings are ambiguous or complex. This also support greater self-regulation reducing the need for government regulatory compliance actions.
How it will uplift productivity and/or economic growth:	The co-design of best practice guidance, specifically addressing risk management and an all-hazards approach, will support better compliance with complex regulatory settings and reduce the need for post action compliance action due to increased clarity and self-regulation. This will save significant time on regulatory investigations and allow industry a better opportunity to comply with outcomes and reduce time spent on their own compliance actions.

2. Best practice guidance for Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 regulated entities

The size, scope and impact the action will have:	Co-designed guidance material will impact all critical infrastructure assets, as well as providing advice to assets outside of the SOCI Act definition of critical infrastructure. In preparation of the material, the department will take a risk-based approach and target the development at the highest risk areas first, before moving to lower priority areas for development.
When the action will be implemented or take effect:	The co-designed guidance is being prepared on a rolling schedule, starting with initial delivery in Quarter 1 of 2025–26, with subsequent updates through Quarters 2–4. Once developed, the guidance will be circulated through social media platforms as well as through the TISN and TISN forums.
How any trade-offs or risks will be managed:	In the short term (2025–26), development of this material will have an increased administrative burden for the department, and may also impact regulated entities during the consultation phase. However in the longer term, the guidance should enable regulated entities to source answers quickly, and without waiting on departmental advice via email on the Trusted Information Sharing Network platform, and or via meetings.
Suitable for public commitment/announcement:	Yes, noting the announcement can indicate that best practice guidance is being developed to support an all-hazards approach for resilience of critical infrastructure assets, and will be released throughout 2025–26.

3. Expand pre-application ballots for WHM visas

Summary of action:	Apply pre-application ballots across all subclass 462 Work and Holiday visa countries, to help manage oversubscription of the program and where there are barriers, to streamline processing.
How it will uplift productivity and/or economic growth:	Streamlining the WHM process through a ballot will reduce complaints about applications in oversubscribed programs as well as provide greater transparency and certainty for users about their ability to apply for and obtain a WHM visa.
The size, scope and impact the action will have:	Use of the ballot could be extended to several other subclass 462 partner countries whose demand exceeds available visas.
When the action will be implemented or take effect:	The relevant IT system is already in place to accommodate any expansion of the ballot. The reform could be implemented in the next 12 months.
Suitable for public commitment/announcement:	Yes, noting Government has already applied pre-application ballots to China, India and Vietnam. Announcement could include references to the successful implementation of ballots for these countries, and refer to countries with oversubscribed WHM allocations.

4. Improving citizenship application processes

Summary of action:	Development of a new citizenship by conferral application form to reduce the impost of irrelevant information collected and required from applicants as well as reducing manual processing.
How it will uplift productivity and/or economic growth:	The new citizenship by conferral application form and revised business processes will reduce regulatory burden by only requiring information and supporting documentation relevant to an individual's circumstances and removing unnecessary interactions with clients. It will also reduce the

4. Improving citizenship application processes

	administrative burden for the Department by reducing manual system interactions which are significant and impact on the time for conferral.
The size, scope and impact the action will have:	The action will benefit all applicants for citizenship by conferral. A total of 214,356 applications for citizenship by conferral applications were lodged in 2024–25.
When the action will be implemented or take effect:	The new form can be delivered within 12 months.
How any trade-offs or risks will be managed:	N/A
Suitable for public commitment/announcement:	Yes, noting Government is committed to promoting citizenship uptake. Citizenship application processes should be accessible and reflect a modern multicultural Australia that is inclusive and proud.