

Premier Jay Weatherill

Thursday, 30 October, 2014

Final report on boards and committees

The final results of an audit of all State Government boards and committees has determined 107 will be abolished, with legislation being tabled in Parliament today to give effect to the reforms.

A further 17 boards will be merged, 62 will be subject to other reforms, 120 will be reclassified and 33 are still being considered. A total of 90 boards, less than one in four, will be retained without reform or reclassification.

Premier Jay Weatherill, who first announced the reforms in July, said the audit delivers red tape reduction in addition to restructuring the way the public interacts with Government.

“The large number of boards and committees currently in existence also contribute to duplication, unnecessary complexity and inefficiency within government,” Mr Weatherill said.

“In going through this process, I asked my Cabinet Ministers to find ways in which boards and committees can be replaced with new forms of engagement with the community, business, and the non-government sector.

“For too long, we have had the same voices leading the public policy debate – we want to open up that debate to more people.

“We have conducted some further consultation with board chairs since releasing the interim report last month and there have been some changes to the final outcome.

“There will also be some ongoing reform work and investigations with a number of boards.”

Category	Interim Report	+	-	Final Report
Abolish	105	+7	-5	107
Merge	18	+1	-2	17
Other Reform	59	+11	-8	62
Further Investigation	58	+5	-30	33
Reclassify	117	+4	-1	120
Retain	72	+18		90
TOTAL	429	44	44	429

The reforms are expected to save at least \$5.5 million over the forward estimates.

Premier Weatherill said that legislation is being tabled in State Parliament today to remove the requirement of certain boards.

“The Bill that we are tabling will amend more than 43 pieces of legislation,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The reforms will also free-up the public sector who provide administrative support to these boards, allowing them to have more interaction with the community.”

Earlier this year, the Government also announced a new Simpler Regulation Unit to ease the red tape burden on business.