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Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

New Bill Helps to Strengthen Consumer Protections, Cut Red Tape

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to cutting red tape to encourage economic activity and to create jobs – our number one priority.

Today, I was pleased to table the Property Agents and Land Transactions Bill 2016, which is aimed at streamlining industry regulation while strengthening protections for consumers in Tasmania.

A home is the most important asset that most people will buy in their lifetimes and so it is important that we strike the right balance between the needs of consumers and the real estate industry.

Over the past 15 months, the peak industry group – the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania (REIT) – has worked closely with the regulator, the Property Agents Board (PAB), and Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) on this Bill.

The review of the original 2005 Act was a response to the general consensus on the part of industry and the regulator of the need for reform.

Among the initiatives in the new Bill is the introduction of a universal licensing scheme, which will allow for better regulation of the industry and continual improvement of professional and industry standards.

Consumer protections will be strengthened through improvements in the ability of tenants and owners of residential properties to make claims for the recovery of losses.

This Bill is a good example of what can be achieved when the Government and its relevant agencies works together with industry to deliver better outcomes.

I thank the REIT, PAB and CBOS for their hard work to date in helping us to progress this legislative reform.

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