

Modernising Business Registers Program: Review of Registry Fees

ABS welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Treasury Paper *Modernising Business Registers Program Review of Registry Fees*.

As the national statistical office, it is the role of ABS to draw upon the most appropriate data sources to inform government and the community with regards to statistics on the economy, society and the environment. In keeping with this commitment, ABS notes that ASIC data are a rich source of data which have the potential to be used to inform economic analysis. For example, ASIC data are currently used to understand individual business structures for use in the ABS economic survey program and to analyse the economic impact of different entity types.

Given the importance of ASIC data to inform economic analysis across government, ASIC data should be promoted as a whole-of-government data resource. Free access for government agencies will enable more effective use of ASIC data for these purposes.

As such, ABS supports the suggestion in Attachment E that government agencies not be charged to access registry data in a future fee regime. The coverage of this should include bulk downloads, including via machine to machine, as well as individual searches.

Australian Bureau of Statistics
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