



National Retail Association

MEDIA STATEMENT

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Fast food measures to create massive compliance costs

The Queensland Government's proposal to introduce labelling laws and restrict ingredients in fast food is heavy-handed and misguided.

The National Retail Association said the proposed measures announced by Health Minister Paul Lucas would place unfair compliance costs on small businesses.

"These small businesses would be slugged with significant compliance costs if these proposals are introduced," Executive Director Gary Black said.

"Instead of blaming small businesses and pursuing misguided measures such as restricting ingredients in food, the Government should take a more measured approach.

"Commonsense tells you that people will eat whatever types of food they want regardless of what a government tries to dictate.

"Providing education to consumers without hitting small businesses with huge compliance costs is a far more sensible option," he said.

Mr Black said the cost of enforcing the proposed measures would be very significant given the size of the industry.

"Heavy-handed red tape-type regulation like this always comes with significant costs to both government that has to enforce it and businesses struggling to comply.

"There is also significant potential for the proposed regime to be riddled with anomalies in its application because of the diversity of the fast food sector.

"It is very difficult to see how this scheme could possibly be designed to deliver fair and even application across the sector," he said.

Mr Black said retailers were urging the Government to focus on practical education-focused measures rather than pursuing heavy-handed regulatory options.

Gary Black is available for interviews. Contact Brad Burke on 0458 291 234