# Overview of the Changes to the Australian Government Regulatory Impact Analysis Framework

## Key RIS Aspects

### Previous Setting

- **Scope**: All Australian Government agencies (e.g., government departments, statutory authorities, boards, public entities etc.)
- **Threshold**: A RIS was required for a decision if that decision was likely to have a minor impact on businesses, community organisations, or individuals.
- **Type**: Four RIS types: Short Form, Interim, Standard Form, and Long Form.
- **Cabinet Submissions**: If a Standard or Long Form RIS was not able to be prepared for a Cabinet submission, an Interim RIS could be prepared. Interim RISs were not assessed by OBPR, but needed to be finalised and subjected to a Final Assessment by OBPR prior to a final decision.
- **Regulatory Costs**: Regulatory costs in RISs over $2 million had to be quantified and agreed with OBPR.
- **Assessment Stages**: OBPR provided an Early Assessment and a Final Assessment. These formal assessments were undertaken only after a RIS had been certified by the relevant secretary, deputy secretary, or chief executive.
- **Assessment Tiers**: Three-tier compliance framework of ‘non compliant’, ‘compliant’, and ‘best practice’.
- **Independent Reviews**: Independent reviews were not assessed by OBPR.
- **Publication**: OBPR would obtain an agency’s approval prior to publishing their RIS following an announcement of a final decision.
- **Exemptions**: The Prime Minister could grant an exemption from the requirement to prepare a RIS. In such cases the only impact analysis required was a post-implementation review within two years of implementation.

### What’s Changed in 2020?

- **Scope**: No change
- **Threshold**: No change
- **Type**: Single RIS that is proportionate to the stage of the process, the problem being addressed, and the recommended option.
- **Cabinet Submissions**: Draft RISs can still be prepared for Cabinet submissions. Draft RISs that have not been assessed by the OBPR will need to be finalised and subjected to a Final Assessment by OBPR prior to a final decision.
- **Regulatory Costs**: Regulatory costs must still be included in RISs, but do not need to be formally agreed with OBPR.
- **Assessment Stages**: No change
- **Independent Reviews**: Independent reviews now assessed by OBPR for relevance to the recommended option(s).
- **Publication**: No change
- **Exemptions**: In granting an exemption, the Prime Minister may require additional analysis to be undertaken before the decision is implemented. This analysis will not be publicly released. A post-implementation review will still be required within two years of implementation.