

Acknowledgements

The origins of this book lie in an invitation from Professor John Wanna to those responsible for the various streams of papers presented at the GOVNET Conference held at The Australian National University in December 2006, to submit sets of papers for consideration for publication as an ANU E Press monograph. It was felt that several of the papers presented in the 'Rethinking Regulation' stream, combined with a number of papers presented at other conferences and two specially commissioned chapters, provided valuable insights into the 'waves' of regulatory reform that Australia has experienced over the last 30 years, especially in regard to the successive attempts to improve the quality of the processes by which regulation is made and amended by government in conjunction with various stakeholders and interests. The result was this book, offering a wide range of views on several aspects of regulatory reform, prepared by authors who include academics, senior public servants and consultants. The book is an important contribution as it both describes and explains the reasons for many of the successes and failures of past reforms to regulation making processes at a time when Australia has commenced a third wave of reform, in the shape of the National Reform Agenda.