

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

**Question: AET 717**

**Topic:           Reviews (PC)**

**Written:        Received from Committee – 22 February 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

717. For this financial year to date (22 February 2013):
- a. How many Reviews are being undertaken?
  - b. What reviews have concluded, and for those that are still ongoing, when will those reviews be concluded?
  - c. Which of these reviews has been provided to Government?
  - d. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
  - e. Has the Government responded to all reviews within the timeframe? If not, why not?
  - f. What is the estimated cost of each of these reviews?
  - g. What reviews are planned?
  - h. When will each of these reviews be concluded?

**Answer:**

717.

- a. Since 30 June 2012, the Government has commissioned four new projects:
  - a 12-month inquiry into the non-financial barriers to mineral and energy resource exploration (reference received 27 September 2012);
  - a 12-month inquiry into the National Access Regime (reference received 25 October 2012);
  - a 9-month study on Regulator Engagement with Small Business (reference received 7 December 2012); and
  - a 12-month study on Major Project Development Assessment Processes (reference received 7 December 2012).

There are also two projects continuing from the previous financial year:

- a 15-month inquiry into aspects of national electricity network regulation (reference received 9 January 2012; and
- a 9-month inquiry into the compulsory licensing of patents (reference received 29 June 2012).

Full details on these projects are provided on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>

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- b. The projects are ongoing. Information on timing of draft and final report dates is available on the Commission's website.
- c. As above.
- d. The Commission does not have information on the proposed timing of Government responses to its reports.
- e. As above.
- f. Information on the estimated costs of these projects is not available at this time. Where available this will be reported in the Commission's 2012-13 Annual Report.
- g. The Commission cannot comment on this matter as it is a matter for Government what reviews the Commission undertakes.
- h. Information on timing of draft and final report dates is available on the Commission's website.