

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 741

Topic: Commissioned Reports (PC)

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

741. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date (22 February 2013)? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- a. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 - b. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

741. See response to AET717.

Since 30 June 2012, the Government has commissioned 4 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).

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

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

- a. 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.

Information on staff involved in these projects is shown in table 1 below.

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Table 1 Staffing of public inquiries and other commissioned projects commenced FYTD 2012-13

<i>Government-commissioned project</i>	<i>Staffing</i>
Non-financial barriers to mineral and energy resource exploration	1 SES, 3 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, 1 APS1
National Access Regime	1 SES, 1 APS4, 4 APS2, 1 APS1
Regulator Engagement with Small Business	1 SES, 2 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1
Major Project Development Assessment Processes	1 SES, 1 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1

- b. The projects are ongoing. Information on timing of draft and final report dates is available on the Commission's website. The Commission does not have information on the timing of the Government's response.