

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 1093-1094

Topic: Commissioned Reports (PC)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1093. How many Reports were commissioned by the Government in your department/agency in 2011-12? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 - What is the current status of each report? Did the Government report within the required timeframe? If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?
1094. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your department/agency this financial year to date (26 October 2012)? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
- How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 - What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1093. Full details on reports commissioned by the Government in 2011-12 are provided in the response to SBT 714.

Across the year the Government commissioned nine new projects:

- a 12 month study on *Business Regulation Benchmarking: Role of Local Government as Regulator* (reference received 4 July 2011);
 - a 9 month inquiry into *Australia's Export Credit Arrangements* (reference received on 1 September 2011);
 - a 12 month inquiry into *Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation* (reference received on 20 September 2011);
 - a 15 month inquiry on *Electricity Network Regulation* (reference received on 9 January 2012);
 - a 9 month study (conducted jointly with the New Zealand Productivity Commission) on *Australia and New Zealand Economic Relations* (reference received 29 January 2012);
 - a 8 month inquiry into *Default Superannuation Funds* (reference received 6 February 2012);
- and

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- a 9 month study on *Regulatory Impact Analysis: Benchmarking* (reference received 28 February 2012)
- a 2 month study on COAG Regulatory and Competition Reforms (reference received 11 May 2012)
- a 9 month inquiry on 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>

(a) Where available, information on the estimated costs of these projects is available in the Commission's 2011-12 Annual Report: <http://www.pc.gov.au/annual-reports/annual-report-2011-12>. Information on staff involved in these projects is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1 Staffing of public inquiries and other commissioned projects commenced FYTD 2011-12

<i>Government-commissioned project</i>	<i>Staffing</i>
Business Regulation Benchmarking: Role of Local Government as Regulator	1 SES, 4 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, APS1
Australia's Export Credit Arrangements	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 3 APS2, 1 APS1
Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, 1 APS1
Electricity Network Regulation	1 SES, 3 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 2 APS1
Australia New Zealand Economic Relations	1 SES, 3 APS4, 1 APS2, 1 APS1
Default Superannuation Funds	1 SES, 1 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1
Regulatory Impact Analysis: Benchmarking	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 1 APS2, 2 APS1
COAG Regulatory and Competition Reforms	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 3 APS2, 1 APS1
Compulsory Licensing of Patents	1 SES, 1 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, 1 APS1

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1094. See response to SBT 713. Since 30 June 2012, the Government has commissioned two 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).

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 2 below.

Table 2 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

(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.