
Productivity Commission Estimates

introduction for tabling

Since the Commission was last before the Committee in mid-October, it has completed reports on benchmarking regulatory impact assessments and further potential reforms to advance Trans-Tasman economic relations. The latter report involved a joint study with the Commission's New Zealand counterpart.

In our capacity as secretariat to the review of government services we also recently released the 2013 Report on Government Services. This provides a comprehensive picture of jurisdictional performance in delivering a range of services, including health, community services, justice, housing and others. Some of the contents have been widely reported, as comparisons are made between outcomes in different States and Territories.

We have also received three new commissioned projects — on the national access regime, regulator interactions with small business, and a third looking at major project development approval processes. These three projects arise from, and will assist, the work of the Council of Australian Governments in these areas.

We have a further three projects underway on electricity regulation, patent licensing and petroleum and mineral exploration. Draft reports for the first two of these projects have been released, and they will be completed in late March or early April.

The Commission's last appearance before Estimates was also the final appearance by the Commission's former Chairman, Gary Banks. Gary departed the Commission in late December and has commenced an appointment as head of the Australian New Zealand School of Government. Following a selection process, the Governor General has appointed Peter Harris as Chair, commencing on 11 March.