

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2015 - 2016

**Department/Agency:** PC

**Question:** AET 1438-1445

**Topic:** Reviews

**Reference:** written - 19 February 2016

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe & Wong, Penny

**Question:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1438. How many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:

- a) the date they were ordered
- b) the date they commenced
- c) the minister responsible
- d) the department responsible
- e) the nature of the review
- f) their terms of reference
- g) the scope of the review
- h) Who is conducting the review
- i) the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
- j) the expected report date
- k) the budgeted, projected or expected costs
- l) If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

1439. For any review commenced or ordered, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?

- a) If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
- b) If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
- c) If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
- d) If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
- e) If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
- f) If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
- g) If yes, for each, who selected them
- h) If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
  1. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
  2. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
  3. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
  4. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
  5. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur

1440. Which reviews are on-going?

- a) Please list them.
- b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

1441. Have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.

1442. Which reviews have concluded? Please list them.

1443. How many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.

1444. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?

1445. What reviews are planned?

- a) When will each planned review be commenced?
- b) When will each of these reviews be concluded?
- c) When will government respond to each review?
- d) Will the government release each review?
  1. If so, when? If not, why not?

**Answer:**

As at 19 February 2016:

1438. Since 14 September 2015, four new Government-commissioned reviews have commenced. (Two reviews commenced prior to 14 September 2015, on Migrant Intake Into Australia and Australia's Intellectual Property Arrangements, are due to be completed in April 2016 and August 2016 respectively – see response to SBT 1094-1101). Details on three main current supporting research projects is provided in the response to the questions on self-initiated work at AET 2786-2792.

- a) see (e) below.
- b) the reviews commenced on the dates they were commissioned - see (e) below.
- c) the Treasurer is the Minister responsible for the Productivity Commission.
- d) the Treasury.
- e) reviews commissioned by Government since 14 September 2015 are:
  - Regulation of Agriculture public inquiry commissioned on 20 November 2015 (completion expected August 2016)
  - Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture public inquiry commissioned on 23 December 2015 (completion expected December 2016)
  - Superannuation – Superannuation Competitiveness and Efficiency study commissioned on 17 February 2016 (completion expected November 2016)
  - Superannuation – Alternative Default Fund Models public inquiry commissioned on 17 February 2016 (completion expected August 2017)
- f) full details are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries>.
- g) as above.
- h) the Productivity Commission.

i) see following table:

	APS4	APS5	APS6	EL1	EL2	SESB1
Regulation of Agriculture	1	3	2	2	1	2
Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture	1	-	1	3	2	1
Superannuation	1	-	2	3	2	1

j) see (e) above.

k) costs of the reviews are yet to be finalised - they will be reported in the Commission's Annual Report when available.

l) the reports will be tabled in parliament and made public.

1439. No.

1440. See response to AET 1438.

1441. No.

1442. Since 14 September 2015, Government commissioned reviews have been completed on Mutual Recognition Schemes; Service Exports; Business Set-up, Transfer and Closure; the Workplace Relations Framework; and Public Sector Mobile Broadband.

In addition, Commission self-initiated research reports have been published on: Housing Decisions of Older Australians; and Tax and Transfer Incidence in Australia.

Full details on recently completed reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au>

1443. Each of the reports referred to in AET 1142 have been published.

1444. The Commission does not have information on the timing of Government responses to its reports.

1445. The planning of reviews is a matter for Government. All Commission reports are released publicly. For commissioned studies, release occurs at the end of the review. For public inquiries, final reports are tabled within 25 sitting days in both houses of Parliament, as required by the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*.