

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Productivity Commission

Question: BET 2968-2975

Topic: Reviews

Reference: Written – 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Questions:

2968. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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) Whom 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
2969. For any review commenced or ordered since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, 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,

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

- i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
 - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
 - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
 - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
 - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
- 2970. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews are on-going?
 - a) Please list them.
 - b) What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?
- 2971. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
- 2972. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
- 2973. Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
- 2974. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
- 2975. 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?
 - i. If so, when? If not, why not?

Answer:

- 2968. Since February one new Productivity Commission review has commenced, on the Relative Costs of Doing Business in Australia.
 - a. The review was requested by the Government on 7 April 2014.
 - b. The review commenced on the date it was commissioned.
 - c. The Treasurer is the Minister responsible for the Productivity Commission.
 - d. The Treasury.
 - e. The review covers the retail and dairy industries in Australia.
 - f. Full details are available <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/business-costs>
 - g. As above.
 - h. The Productivity Commission.
 - i. Staffing details are as follows:

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Table 1 Staffing of the Relative Costs of Doing Business in Australia study

	<i>Staffing</i>
Retail component of the study	1 SES, 3 APS4, 2 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1
Dairy component of the study	1 SES (Acting), 5 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1

j. The review is expected to be finalised in early October 2014.

k. Costs of the review are yet to be finalised. They will be reported in the Commission's Annual Report when available.

l. The report will be publicly released on completion.

2969. No.

2970. a. Details on ongoing reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>.

b. Full details on review costs are reported in the Commission's Annual Report each year.

2970. No.

2971. Since February, the Commission has completed reviews on the Automotive Industry, Geographical Labour Mobility and Public Infrastructure. Full details on recently completed reviews are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>.

2972. As above.

2973. The Commission does not have information on the timing of Government responses to its reports.

2974. The Commission does not have information on planned reviews. All Commission reports are released publicly. For commissioned studies, release occurs at the end of the review. For public inquiries, final reports must be tabled within 25 sitting days in both houses of Parliament, as required by the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*.