

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Book industry

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-55

1. Regarding the Productivity Commission's inquiry into Australia's intellectual property arrangements:
 - a. What contribution did the Department make to this inquiry? Please provide a detailed account of any input.
 - b. What book industry input did the Department seek regarding this inquiry? Please provide a detailed account of any input sought and provided.
2. Regarding the Productivity Commission's proposal for a significant transformation of Australia's copyright framework in its draft report, released on 29 April 2016:
 - a. What modelling or consultation has the Department undertaken on the potential effects of this proposal on the book industry's viability and on our national cultural production?
 - b. What specific measures does the Department employ to take into account the value to the nation of intangible benefits such as national identity, local literary and artistic capacity, and cultural enrichment?
3. Regarding the Government's response on 24 November 2015 to the Competition Policy Review (the Harper Review), that it would remove restrictions on the parallel importation of books:
 - a. Did the Department make any contribution to this response? Please provide a detailed account of any input.
 - b. What modelling or consultation has the Department undertaken on the potential effects of this proposal on the book industry's viability and on our national cultural production?
 - c. Has the Department conducted any analysis of the effect of this proposal on innovation and on investment attraction in the book industry?
4. Regarding the Australian Law Reform Commission's report Copyright and Digital Economy:
 - a. What contribution did the Department make to this inquiry? Please provide a detailed account of any input.
 - b. What contribution did the Department make to the subsequent Ernst & Young cost benefit analysis? Please provide a detailed account of any input.

ANSWER

1.

- a. The department engaged with the inquiry by: providing a submission to the draft report (available on the Productivity Commission's website); attending two meetings with the PC and responding to requests for information about the department's level of resourcing for IP policy.
- b. The Department has not sought any input from the book industry. The relevant issues and recommendations are the portfolio responsibility of the Department of Communications and the Arts.

2.

- a. Nil. The department does not hold policy responsibility for Copyright issues or national cultural policy.
- b. Nil. The department does not hold policy responsibility for issues such as national identity, local literary and artistic capacity, and cultural enrichment

3.

- a. The department attended inter-departmental committee meetings convened by the Treasury.
- b. The department has not undertaken specific modelling or consultation in this area.
- c. No.

4.

- a. Nil. The department does not hold policy responsibility for copyright issues.
- b. Nil. The department does not hold policy responsibility for copyright issues.