

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Budget Estimates**

1 June – 3 June 2010

**Question: BET 120**

**Topic: Productivity Commission Reports**

**Hansard Page: E79 (03/06/2010)**

**Senator EGGLESTON asked:**

**Senator EGGLESTON**—How many reports has the Productivity Commission started and finished in this financial year and what were they for?

**Mr Banks**—I would love to answer that off the top of my head. When you say this financial year, is it the one that just started? No, it is right at the very end of it so I cannot get out of it that way. We can get back to you on that.

**Answer:**

In the financial year 2009-10 the Commission has started 5 new Government-commissioned research studies, on:

- Bilateral and Regional Trade Agreements;
- Education and Training Workforce;
- Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business — Business and Consumer Services;
- Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments; and
- Impacts and Benefits of COAG Reforms.

A further Government-commissioned study was commenced and completed in the same year, on Market Mechanisms for Recovering Water in the Murray-Darling Basin.

The Commission also completed 6 reports on Government-commissioned research studies that commenced in the previous year, on:

- Restrictions on the Parallel Importation of Books;
- Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business — Social and Economic Infrastructure Services;
- Public and Private Hospitals;

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- Contribution of the Not-for-Profit Sector;
- Performance Benchmarking of Australian and New Zealand Business Regulation: Food Safety; and
- Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Occupational Health and Safety.

In 2009-10 the Commission started 4 new inquiries, on:

- Wheat Marketing;
- Caring for Older Australians;
- Disability Care and Support; and
- Rural Research and Development Corporations.

The Commission also completed 3 reports on inquiries that commenced in the previous year, on:

- Australia's Anti-dumping and Countervailing System;
- Gambling; and
- Executive Remuneration.