Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009
Department of Finance and Deregulation
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1
Topic: Regulatory Offsets

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Senator Coonan asked:

As part of the deregulation agenda, the government said it would adopt a 'one in, one out' principle for new Commonwealth regulations: when new regulations are proposed, they must be accompanied by proposals to remove. Has that happened? Has there, in fact, been an alignment of 'one in, one out' as promised?

I am interested in outcomes here and I am not being critical of the effort or the intent or the value that might be achieved from this, but I would just like to try and get, for the purposes of Estimates—because that is my job—some idea of how well it is working.

Answer:

The 'one in, one out' principle has been implemented and has been incorporated into a wider suite of measures to reduce, remove or improve the quality of accumulated Commonwealth regulation, including:

- the introduction of a Bill, the *Statute Stocktake (Regulatory and Other Laws) Bill 2009*, to amend or repeal almost 30 Acts where the provisions no longer have any function or purpose;

- as announced in the *2008-09 Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, a review of pre-2008 subordinate legislation and other regulation is underway, to document those regulations which impose net costs on business and to identify scope to improve regulatory efficiency;

- responses to the annual sectoral reviews by the Productivity Commission to identify regulation that is 'unnecessarily burdensome, complex or redundant';

- Better Regulation Ministerial Partnerships between the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and ministerial colleagues to identify and remove unnecessary or poorly designed regulation; and

- for regulation with a cross-jurisdictional implication, initiatives are being advanced through the COAG Business Regulation and Competition Working Group (BRCWG). The BRCWG is currently addressing 27 deregulation priorities, 8 competition initiatives and improved regulatory processes.