

Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation

Productivity
Commission
Circular

20 September 2011
Circular no. 1

New Inquiry

The Productivity Commission has been asked to report within 12 months on barriers to effective climate change adaptation. The inquiry covers regulatory and policy barriers that inhibit the ability of the community to adapt effectively to climate change.

In undertaking the inquiry, the Commission should identify any specific barriers, and high priority options for addressing those barriers.

The Commission is to:

- examine the costs and benefits of the options to address those barriers where it is feasible to do so, including a 'no change' (maintaining the status quo) option
- assess the role of markets (including insurance markets) and non-market mechanisms in facilitating adaptation, and the appropriateness of government intervention.

The full terms of reference that guide the issues of relevance to the inquiry, are reproduced in Appendix A.

The Commissioners conducting the inquiry are Wendy Craik (Presiding) and Neil Byron (Associate Commissioner).

Key dates

Issues paper	end October 2011
Initial submissions due	16 December 2011
Draft report	April/May 2012
Public hearings	June/July 2012
Final report to Government	September 2012

Who should participate in the inquiry?

The Commission invites all interested individuals and organisations to register an interest in the inquiry. You can also participate by lodging written submissions and/or through appearance at public hearings or other discussion forums.

Register your interest

By registering your interest you will receive regular updates about the inquiry's progress and key dates. Register your interest either online (website address below) or by completing Attachment B and returning it by fax or mail to the address provided.

Make a submission

This is a public inquiry and the Commission invites interested people and organisations to make a written submission.

Each submission, except for any information supplied in confidence (see below), will be published on the Commission's website shortly after receipt, and will remain there indefinitely as a public document. Copyright in submissions sent to the Commission resides with the author(s), not with the Commission.

How to prepare a submission

To assist in the preparation of submissions, the Commission will shortly release an Issues Paper that will identify a range of matters about which information and comment are being sought. Submissions may range from a short letter outlining your views on a particular topic to a much more substantial document covering a range of issues. Where possible, you should provide evidence, such as relevant data and documentation, to support your views.

This is a public review and all submissions should be provided as public documents that can be placed on the Commission's website for others to read and comment on. However, under certain circumstances the Commission can accept sensitive material in confidence, for example, if it was of a personal or commercial nature, and publishing the material would be potentially damaging. You are encouraged to contact the Commission for further information and advice before submitting such material. Material supplied in confidence on personal or commercial grounds should be provided under separate cover and clearly marked 'PERSONAL IN CONFIDENCE' or 'COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE' accordingly.

How to submit a submission

Each submission should be accompanied by a submission cover sheet. The submission cover sheet is available on the inquiry web page and a copy is attached to this circular (Attachment C). For submissions received from individuals, all personal details (eg home and email address, phone and fax number) will be removed before it is published on the website for privacy reasons.

The Commission prefers to receive submissions as a Word (.doc) file attachment to an email (see address below). PDF files are acceptable. To ensure your PDF is as electronically readable as possible, the Commission recommends that it is derived from word processing software (eg Microsoft Word or Lotus notes) and not from a scanner, fax or photocopying machine.

Track changes, editing marks, hidden text and internal links should be removed from submissions before sending to the Commission. To ensure hyperlinks work in your submission, the Commission recommends that you type the full web address (eg <http://www.referred-website.com/folder/file-name.html>).

Submissions can also be accepted by fax or post (see address below).

By email*: climate-adaptation@pc.gov.au
By fax: (03) 9653 2199
By post: Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic 8003

* If you do not receive notification of receipt of an email message you have sent to the Commission within two working days of sending, please contact the Administrative Officer (see below).

Due date for submissions

Please send submissions to the Commission by **16 December 2011**

Availability of submissions and transcripts

Unless there are timing issues involved, public submissions and transcripts from public hearings will be available on the Commission's website shortly after receipt where they will remain indefinitely.

Further information

If you have any queries please contact:

Yvette Goss (administrative matters)	Ph: (03) 9653 2253
Anthea Long (other matters)	Ph: (03) 9653 2162
Fax number for the inquiry	Fax: (03) 9653 2199
Freecall number for regional areas:	1800 020 083
Email:	climate-adaptation@pc.gov.au
Website:	www.pc.gov.au (under ' Projects ')

This circular and subsequent updates will be made available on the Commission's website — www.pc.gov.au (see under '**Projects**'). Further information on the Commission, its projects and publications can be obtained from the Commission's website or by contacting the Media and Publications section on (03) 9653 2244 or email: maps@pc.gov.au.

Terms of reference

**Productivity Commission Inquiry into
Regulatory and Policy Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation**

Productivity Commission Act 1998

I, Bill Shorten, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, pursuant to Parts 2 and 3 of the *Productivity Commission Act 1998* hereby request that the Productivity Commission undertake an inquiry into regulatory and policy barriers to effective climate change adaptation. The Commission will report within 12 months of receipt of this reference and will hold hearings for the purpose of this inquiry.

Background

Climate change adaptation is action by households, firms, other organisations and governments to respond to the impacts of climate change that cannot be avoided through climate change mitigation efforts. An effective national adaptation response will require all levels of government, the private sector and intermediary markets to contribute to that response.

This inquiry will assist COAG to advance climate change adaptation reforms in Australia by examining the policy frameworks required to facilitate effective adaptation, and the costs and benefits of various adaptation options so as to identify the highest priority reforms. In undertaking this review the Commission will also assess the effectiveness and efficiency of market based approaches in facilitating adaptation.

Scope of the Inquiry

The Commission is requested to assess the regulatory and policy barriers to effective adaptation. In undertaking the review, the Commission should identify any specific barriers that may act to inhibit effective adaptation to unavoidable climate change.

The Commission should identify high priority reform options to address any identified barriers to effective adaptation. The Commission should also:

- examine the costs and benefits of the options to address those barriers where it is feasible to do so, including a 'no change' (maintaining the status quo) option; and
- assess the role of markets (including insurance markets) and non-market mechanisms in facilitating adaptation, and the appropriateness of government intervention.

In undertaking its inquiry, the Commission should take into account the relevant policies of all levels of government and the work on adaptation undertaken under the auspices of COAG. The Commission should consult with relevant Australian Government, state and territory and local government agencies, and other key stakeholders.

The Commission is to provide both a draft and a final report, and the reports will be published. The Government will consider the Commission's recommendations, and its response will be announced as soon as possible after the receipt of the Commission's report.

BILL SHORTEN
20 September 2011

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation



To register your interest please complete and return this form to:
 Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation
 Productivity Commission
 LB2 Collins Street East
 Melbourne Vic 8003

OR

By facsimile (fax) to:
 Yvette Goss (03) 9653 2199

By email: climate-adaptation@pc.gov.au

OR register online at:
www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/climate-change-adaptation

Organisation or Individual:

Principal contact:

Position:

Phone:

Fax:

Mobile:

Email address:

Street address:

Suburb/City:

State

P'code:

Postal address:

Suburb/City:

State

P'code:

You will be kept informed about the inquiry's progress through periodic circulars and emails. Please indicate if you would prefer material by:

- Email
- Post

Your details will only be used for the purpose for which you have provided them.

