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## D Example RISs

In preparing a RIS, officials often find it helpful to examine past examples which the ORR has assessed as of an adequate standard. The following examples have been made available on the ORR website (<http://www.pc.gov.au/orr/index.html>) for that purpose. They have been chosen to illustrate RISs for different types of regulatory proposals as well as different degrees of analysis.

All of these RISs have been tabled in Parliament and are thus public documents. They form part of the Explanatory Memorandum which is published for each Bill tabled in Parliament, and part of the Explanatory Statement for each disallowable instrument tabled; copies can be obtained from Ausinfo. Once tabled, many RISs may be accessed electronically via the website of the Attorney-General's Department on <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au>.

### **Electronic Transactions Bill 1999**

- to facilitate the development of e-commerce by removing impediments in the law that may prevent a person using electronic means to satisfy obligations under Commonwealth law.
- the RIS provides a sound case based on a qualitative assessment of costs and benefits — no useful quantitative data are available.

### **Renewable Energy (Electricity) Bill 2000**

- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increasing, by the year 2010, the share of Australian electricity generated by renewable means (wind, solar) from 10.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent.
- draws on a wide range of engineering and cost data.

### **A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Bill 1998**

- to introduce a goods and services tax to take effect from 1 July 2000
- this RIS provided a broad overview of what groups would be affected and to what extent.

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### **Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents) Bill 1999**

- to extend for three years a scheme of statutory self-regulation of those providing advisory services to migrants.
- an example of government regulatory backing for what is essentially an industry self-regulation scheme.

### **Fisheries Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 1) 1999**

- to regulate fishing on the ‘high seas’, outside Australia’s 200 nautical mile zone.
- an example of a RIS on the implementation, via Australian law, of an international treaty signed by Australia.

### **Trade Practices (International Liner Cargo Shipping) Amendment Bill 2000**

- to modify arrangements whereby liner shipping conferences are exempted from certain provisions (misuse of market power) of the Trade Practices Act.
- an example of a RIS covering proposals consequent on a wide-ranging public inquiry process and published report.

### **Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2000**

- to implement an access regime whereby private sector mail services would be able to utilise parts of the Australia Post distribution network.
- this RIS provides a good example of assessing various options taking into account the promotion of further competition, allowing commercial negotiations to settle issues as much as possible, and keeping compliance costs to reasonable levels.

### **New Business Tax System (Alienation of Personal Services Income) Bill 2000**

- to address a growing threat to the income tax base whereby income from personal services is being directed to an interposed entity rather than to the person providing the services, thereby avoiding rates of income tax that should apply to individuals.
- this RIS is an example covering the implementation of recommendations made by the Ralph review of business taxation which addressed all the essential features of a RIS — problem, objective, options. It should be noted that RISs on tax matters are subject to lesser requirements than RISs in general (see The Guide 1998, p. B9).

### **Fuel Quality Standards Bill 2000**

- to regulate the quality of fuel in order to reduce air pollution and to facilitate the adoption of improved engine and emission control technologies.

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- this RIS is a good example of a combination of quite complex technological, environmental and health issues with substantial investment cost implications for the refining industry. Reflecting that, the RIS is some 40 pages long. It sets out in detail seven different options. It provides estimates of the costs and benefits of the preferred option, including valuations of the avoided health care costs resulting from reductions in air pollution.

### **Accreditation Grant Principles 1999**

- this was a disallowable instrument tabled in Parliament in September 1999. It set down the legal framework for the accreditation of aged care facilities, entailing a move from passive monitoring of standards to an active audited regime of continuous improvement.
- this RIS demonstrates how the consultation process can provide valuable information which helps in the design of better regulation.