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The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission, an independent agency, is the Australian Government's principal review and advisory body on microeconomic policy and regulation. It conducts public inquiries and research into a broad range of economic and social issues affecting the welfare of Australians.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

Information on the Productivity Commission, its publications and its current work program can be found on the World Wide Web at www.pc.gov.au or by contacting Media and Publications on (03) 9653 2244.

Foreword

The Productivity Commission is required to report annually on regulation review and reform issues, including compliance by departments and agencies with the Australian Government's Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) requirements. The Commission also reports on National Competition Policy reviews of Commonwealth legislation and on the adequacy of RISs for regulatory proposals considered by Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. These processes are all designed to improve the quality of Australia's regulatory system, thereby enhancing regulatory outcomes.

This is the sixth such report. It forms part of the Productivity Commission's annual report series of publications for 2002-03. It draws on the work of the Office of Regulation Review, which advises, monitors and reports on compliance with the Government's RIS requirements.

This edition of *Regulation and its Review* provides RIS compliance information by department and agency over time. As in last year's report, RIS compliance information is provided for individual departments and agencies, with a focus on significant regulatory issues. The present volume also examines developments in regulatory policy in selected OECD countries.

The Commission is grateful for the cooperation of government departments and agencies, Ministerial Councils and standard-setting bodies, in providing information on their regulatory activities throughout the year.

Gary Banks
Chairman

November 2003

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Abbreviations

ABA	Australian Broadcasting Authority
ABCB	Australian Building Codes Board
ACA	Australian Communications Authority
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACS	Australian Customs Service
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFFA	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry — Australia (Department of)
A-G's	Attorney-General's Department
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APMC	Australasian Police Ministers Council
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
BCCS	Business Cost Compliance Statement (NZ)
BRRU	Business Regulation Reform Unit (Queensland)
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CoA	Commonwealth of Australia
CRR	Committee on Regulation and Reform
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHA	Department of Health and Aging
DITR	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

DoCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
DoTaRS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
EA	Environment Australia
EIA	Extended Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
ESD	ecologically sustainable development
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia New Zealand
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GM	genetically modified
IAC	Industries Assistance Commission
IC	Industry Commission
MCCA	Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs
NCC	National Competition Council
NCP	National Competition Policy
NOIE	National Office for the Information Economy
NRTC	National Road Transport Commission
NSSBs	National Standard-Setting Bodies
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIRA	Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
OMB	Office of Management and Budget (USA)
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
PC	Productivity Commission
PIA	Preliminary Impact Assessment
PIMC	Primary Industries Ministerial Council
PM&C	Department of The Prime Minister and Cabinet
RBA	Reserve Bank of Australia
RIA	regulatory impact analysis
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
RRU	Regulation Review Unit (Tasmania)

SARC	Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
SBC	Small Business Commissioner
SGG	synthetic greenhouse gases
SSCRO	Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Australian Government)
UCCC	Uniform Consumer Credit Code