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***The Productivity Commission***

The Productivity Commission, an independent Commonwealth agency, is the 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](http://www.pc.gov.au) or by contacting Media and Publications on (03) 9653 2244.

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# Foreword

The Productivity Commission is required to report annually on compliance by Commonwealth departments and agencies with the Government's Regulation Impact Statement requirements. The Commission also reports on two Council of Australian Government programs: reviews of existing Commonwealth legislation which restricts competition; and proposals being considered by Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. These processes aim to achieve best practice regulatory outcomes.

This is the second such report. It forms part of the Productivity Commission's annual report series of publications for 1998-99.

The Commission's Office of Regulation Review provides training and advice to all departments and agencies on the best practice requirements, and monitors compliance. In this edition of *Regulation and its Review*, the Commission provides for the first time data on the compliance of individual agencies as well as aggregate data.

The Commission is grateful for the cooperation of Commonwealth departments and agencies, and Ministerial Councils, in providing information to the ORR on their regulatory activity throughout the year.

Gary Banks  
Chairman



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# Abbreviations

ABA	Australian Broadcasting Authority
ACA	Australian Communications Authority
ACS	Australian Customs Service
AFFA	Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry-Australia
AG's	Attorney-General's Department
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
COAG Guidelines	Principles and Guidelines for National Standard Setting and Regulatory Action by Ministerial Councils and Standard-Setting Bodies
CPA	Competition Principles Agreement
DE&H	Department of Environment and Heritage
DETYA	Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
DEWRSB	Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHAC	Department of Health and Aged Care
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DISR	Department of Industry, Science and Resources
DoCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
DoFA	Department of Finance and Administration
DTRS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
IC	Industry Commission
NCC	National Competition Council

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NEPC	National Environment Protection Council
NRTC	National Road Transport Commission
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
OSB	Office of Small Business
PC	Productivity Commission
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
RPIs	Regulatory Performance Indicators
SSCRO	Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
ToR	Terms of Reference