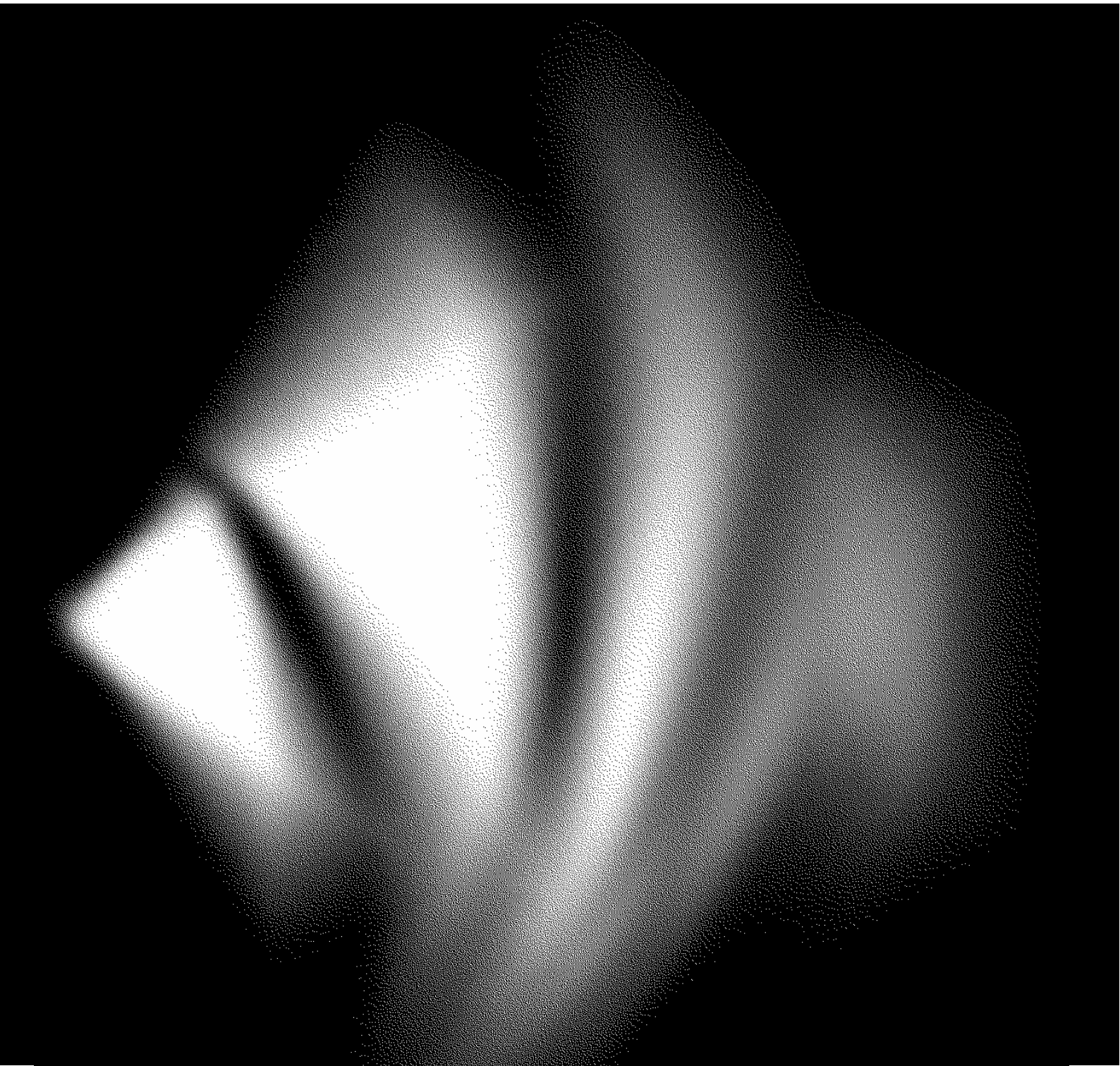




Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Regulation and its Review 2005-06

Productivity
Commission
Annual Report Series



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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 reform and review issues, including compliance by departments and agencies with the Australian Government's Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) requirements. These processes are designed to enhance Australia's regulatory systems and improve regulatory outcomes.

This is the ninth such report and forms part of the Productivity Commission's annual report series of publications for 2005-06. It has drawn on the work of the Office of Regulation Review (ORR), a separate unit within the Commission.

The report provides RIS compliance information in aggregate and for individual Australian Government departments and agencies, as well as Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. It also outlines regulation reform activity in the States and Territories and selected overseas countries.

During 2005-06, the Australian Government and COAG strengthened their RIS requirements and set in train related reform measures. The next edition in this series will report on compliance under these new arrangements. This report outlines the requirements and the changes being made to embed them, including through the enhancement of the ORR's role as the new Office of Best Practice Regulation. The Australian Government's new requirements focus on improving consultation processes, and analysis of costs and benefits of regulatory proposals, with tighter gate keeping along with increased attention to training and support.

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

Gary Banks
Chairman

November 2006

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Abbreviations

ABCB	Australian Building Codes Board
ACMA	Australian Communications and Media Authority
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AFPC	Australian Fair Pay Commission
ANZFRMC	Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council
APMC	Australasian Police Ministers' Council
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
ARPANSA	Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency
ASCC	Australian Safety and Compensation Council
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
ATC	Australian Transport Council
BCC	Business Cost Calculator
BIA	Business Impact Assessment
CIA	Competition Impact Analysis
CRR	Committee on Regulatory Reform
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DoCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
DITR	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

DoTARS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
EPHC	Environmental Protection and Heritage Council
ESD	ecologically sustainable development
EU	European Union
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia and New Zealand
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
MCCA	Ministerial Council for Consumer Affairs
MCE	Ministerial Council on Energy
MCMPR	Ministerial Council on Minerals and Petroleum Resources
MEPS	Mandatory Energy Performance Standards
MRU	Microeconomic Reform Unit
NCC	National Competition Council
NRA	National Reform Agenda
NSSBs	National standard-setting bodies
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
PIMC	Primary Industries Ministerial Council
PC	Productivity Commission
RIAU	Regulatory Impact Analysis Unit (New Zealand)
RIAS	Regional Impact Assessment Statement
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
RTF	Regulation Task Force
SBDC	Small Business Development Corporation
SBIS	Small Business Impact Statement
SSCRO	Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances
SCM	Standard Cost Model

UPM NEPM	Used Packaging Materials National Environment Protection Measure
VCEC	Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission