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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 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 Commonwealth departments and agencies with the Government's Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) requirements. The Commission also reports on National Competition Policy reviews of Commonwealth legislation which restricts competition or impacts on business; and on the adequacy of RISs for regulatory proposals considered by Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. These processes all aim to achieve best practice regulatory outcomes.

This is the fourth such report. It forms part of the Productivity Commission's annual report series of publications for 2001-02.

The Commission's Office of Regulation Review (ORR) advises, monitors and reports on compliance with the Government's RIS requirements. This edition of *Regulation and its Review* continues last year's initiative of providing RIS compliance data for each Commonwealth department and agency, as well as for significant regulatory proposals.

This edition also considers some emerging regulatory issues, including accounting for ecologically sustainable development and small businesses impacts, and regulatory compliance costs.

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

Gary Banks
Chairman

November 2002

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Abbreviations and explanations

Abbreviations

ABA	Australian Broadcasting Authority
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-Gs	Attorney-General's Department
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
ANZFA	Australia New Zealand Food Authority
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
ATC	Australian Transport Council
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
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPA	Competition Principles Agreement
CRIS	Cost Recovery Impact Statement
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
DTRS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
E&H	Environment and Heritage portfolio
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HDTV	High Definition Digital Television
IAC	Industries Assistance Commission
IC	Industry Commission
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
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
PC	Productivity Commission
PM&C	Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
R&D	Research and Development
RIA	Regulation Impact Analysis
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
RRU	Regulation Review Unit (Tasmania)
SBDTF	Small Business Deregulation Task Force (Cmth)
SBS	Small Business Service (UK)
SDTV	Standard Definition Digital Television

SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SSCRO	Senate Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Cmth)
ToR	Terms of Reference
VORR	Victorian Office of Regulation Review

Explanations

Billion The convention used for a billion is a thousand million (10^9).