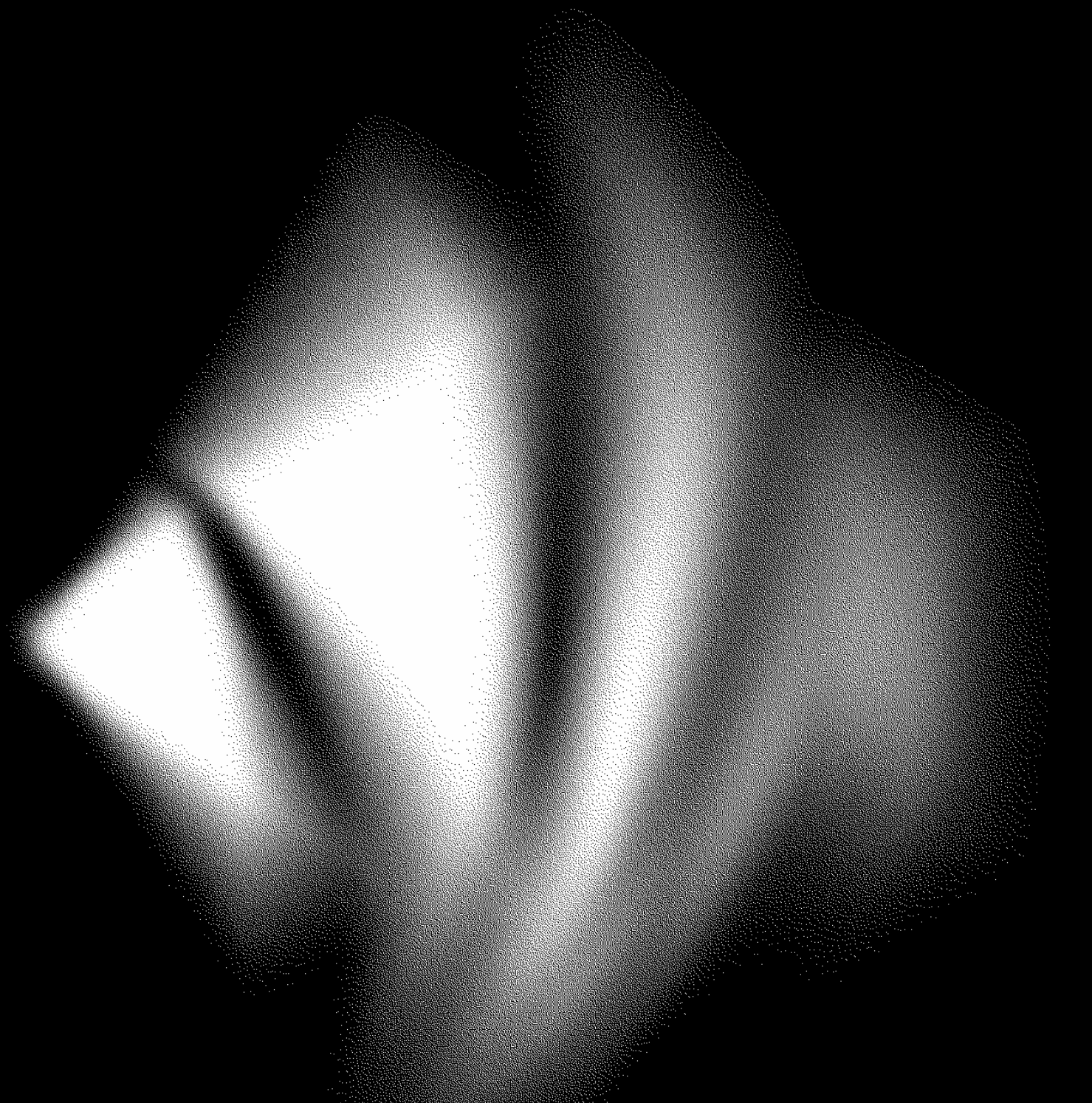




Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Regulation and its Review 2004-05

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 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 the adequacy of RISs for regulatory proposals considered by Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. These processes are designed to improve the quality of Australia's regulatory systems and enhance regulatory outcomes.

This is the eighth such report and forms part of the Productivity Commission's annual report series of publications for 2004-05. It draws on the work of the Office of Regulation Review, a separate unit within the Productivity Commission, which monitors and reports on compliance with the Government's RIS requirements and those of the Council of Australian Governments.

This edition of *Regulation and its Review* provides RIS compliance information in aggregate and for individual Australian Government departments and agencies, as well as for individual Ministerial Councils and national standard-setting bodies. The assessed adequacy of RISs for all Bills, delegated instruments and treaties tabled in Parliament during the year is noted.

This year's report also discusses perceptions about Australia's regulatory system, what governments are doing to improve the quality of regulations and ways of improving regulation making processes. Recent developments in regulatory policy in Australia and internationally are also discussed.

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 and work throughout the year.

Gary Banks
Chairman

October 2005

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Abbreviations

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ABA	Australian Broadcasting Authority
ACA	Australian Communications Authority
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACCI	Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
ACMA	Australian Communications and Media Authority
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANU	Australian National University
A-G's	Attorney-General's Department
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
ANZMEC	Australian and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation
APMC	Australasian Police Ministers Council
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
BCA	Business Council of Australia
BIA	Business Impact Assessment
BRTF	Better Regulation Task Force
CRR	Committee on Regulatory Reform
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPA	Competition Principles Agreement
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DCITA	Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
DEWR	Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
DEH	Department of the Environment and Heritage

DEST	Department of Education, Science and Training
DHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DITR	Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
DOTARS	Department of Transport and Regional Services
DVA	Department of Veterans Affairs
ESD	ecologically sustainable development
FRLI	Federal Register of Legislative Instruments
FSANZ	Food Standards Australia and New Zealand
GBRMPPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
NAS	National Airspace System
NCC	National Competition Council
NCP	National Competition Policy
NPRF	National Plumbing Regulators Forum
NSSBs	National standard-setting bodies
NSW	New South Wales
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
ORR	Office of Regulation Review
PC	Productivity Commission
Qld	Queensland
RIA	regulatory impact analysis
RIAR	Regional Impact Assessment Report
RIAU	Regulatory Impact Analysis Unit (New Zealand)
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
SA	South Australia
SCM	Standard Cost Model
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
VAT	Value Added Tax
VCEC	Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission