
D Supporting research and related activities

The Commission's supporting research program encompasses a range of activities. This appendix provides brief summaries of Commission Research Papers, Submissions and Staff Working Papers released in the year. It also lists the presentations given by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff to parliamentary committees, conferences and industry and community groups in 2008-09, as well as briefings to international visitors.

Commission research papers

Financial performance of government trading enterprises, 2004-05 to 2006-07

July 2008

The study formed part of the Commission's research into the performance of Australian industries and the progress of microeconomic reform. The financial performance of 86 government trading enterprises (GTEs) providing services in key sectors of the economy — including electricity, water, urban transport, rail, ports and forestry — were presented in this report. In 2006-07, these GTEs controlled about 2.8 per cent of Australia's non-household assets (valued at \$192 billion) and accounted for around 1.7 per cent of GDP.

Key points of the study were:

- Overall, the profitability of GTEs increased by 36 per cent in 2006-07, with mixed results across sectors. Profitability increased in the electricity, urban transport and ports sectors, but declined in the rail, water and forestry sectors.
 - For sectors recording a profit improvement, much of this derived from the performance of a single GTE in that sector (between 41 per cent and 63 per cent of increased profits).

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- Profitability also varied among GTEs:
 - profits declined for two-fifths of GTEs
 - fourteen GTEs (of which five were in the water sector) reported losses.
 - Just over half of monitored GTEs failed to achieve a return on assets above the risk free rate of return in 2006-07. This implies that an even greater proportion did not earn a commercial rate of return (which would include a margin for non-diversifiable risk).
 - twelve GTEs (14 per cent) failed to achieve a positive return on their assets.
 - The poor financial performance of many GTEs underscores a long-term failure to operate these businesses on a fully commercial basis, in accordance with Competition Policy Agreements.
 - In total, GTEs made dividend payments to owner-governments of almost \$4.4 billion in 2006-07. In addition, income tax and tax-equivalent payments totalled \$1.8 billion.
 - Contrary to stated policies, not all governments have identified all existing community service obligations (CSOs). Also, governments are generally not reporting funding for CSOs in a transparent manner. Almost no information is reported on the costs of meeting CSOs.
 - Inadequate funding for provision of CSOs affects a GTE's financial performance and can result in inadequate or misallocated investment, price increases for non-CSO services, and/or lower quality service provision.
 - Poor profitability can lead to inadequate investment and asset maintenance, which can in turn reduce the future profitability of GTEs. Without a return to commercially sustainable operations, this cycle can persist.

Trends in Aged Care Services: some implications

September 2008

This report forms part of a series of studies undertaken by the Commission to examine developments in different sectors of the Australian economy. It also built on earlier work by the Commission in the areas of demographic change, health and aged care.

Key points of the study were:

- Over the next 40 years, population ageing and growing diversity among older people — in terms of their care needs, preferences and affluence — are expected to pose a number of challenges to Australia's aged care system. These include:

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- a significant increase in demand — those aged over 85 tend to be the main users of aged care services, and their numbers are expected to increase at least four-fold by 2047
 - the changing pattern of disease among the aged is expected to increase the proportion of frail older people with more complex care needs
 - an increased preference for independent living arrangements supported by community care, and a desire for greater autonomy and choice in aged care services generally
 - many of the aged having higher levels of income and wealth with which to leverage services, although significant numbers — over three quarters of those of age pension age — will continue to be eligible for the age pension
 - needing to secure a significant expansion in the aged care workforce at a time of ‘aged induced’ tightening of the labour market, accentuated by competing demands from the acute care sector.
- The policy implications of these prospective challenges are broad ranging and complex. This study highlights several areas where further analysis seems called for to aid the development of an improved framework for aged care, including:
 - assessing the potential for unbundling residential care (that is, accommodation, everyday living and personal care costs) to better reflect the underlying costs of these services and enable better targeting of public subsidies to those most in need
 - examining the current dual gate-keeping system and the scope to improve it by dispensing with the planning and allocation system (while retaining accreditation) and relying on the entitlement for aged care services established by aged care assessment teams
 - considering the feasibility of introducing ‘consumer-centred’ care arrangements to enhance the potential for older people to influence the nature and scope of the services they receive
 - looking at ways of improving responsiveness in aged care education and training arrangements and extending scopes of practice to overcome inefficiencies and inflexibilities in the workforce.

Submissions

Submission to Infrastructure Australia's National Infrastructure Audit

September 2008

Infrastructure issues and policy settings have been an important part of the work of the Productivity Commission and its predecessors, the Industry Commission and the Industries Assistance Commission. The Commission's focus in this work has primarily been on economic rather than social infrastructure, and on policy and regulatory issues (including in regard to pricing) impinging on efficient infrastructure investment and usage, rather than on assessing the adequacy of the existing infrastructure stock.

Given the tight timeframes involved, the Commission's submission provided a synthesis of the key themes and issues relevant to achieving good infrastructure outcomes that have emerged from its work over the years. These include the need:

- for clear objectives focussed on enhancing efficiency;
- to improve the governance and institutional arrangements shaping the activities of Government Trading Enterprises;
- to further unwind underpricing and non-cost reflective pricing of certain publicly provided infrastructure services;
- to underpin public funding of infrastructure with more rigorous cost-benefit analysis;
- for 'investment-friendly' price and other regulation of privately provided infrastructure;
- for resolution of some outstanding structural (vertical and horizontal integration) issues;
- to recognise and address the challenges in getting public-private infrastructure partnerships 'right', particularly in regard to risk allocation and ensuring sufficient competition amongst potential project proponents; and
- to take account of the impacts of policies in other parts of the economy on efficient infrastructure investment, especially policies pertaining to greenhouse gas abatement.

Staff working papers

Note: The views expressed in staff working papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Productivity Commission.

Recent Trends in Australian Fertility

Ralph Lattimore and Clinton Pobke, August 2008

This staff working paper was part of a stream of Productivity Commission research that originates from the Commission's 2005 study for COAG on the Economic Implications of the Ageing of Australia's Population.

Key points were:

- Births in Australia are at an historical high — with around 285 000 babies born in 2007. This corresponds to an estimated total fertility rate of 1.93 babies per woman, the highest since the early 1980s.
 - This is not a one-off event as fertility rates have been generally rising for the last 6 years. Overall, the evidence suggests that after its long downward trend after the Second World War, Australia's fertility rate may have stabilised at around 1.75 to 1.9 babies per woman.
- Much of the recent increase in the fertility rate is likely to reflect the fact that over the last few decades, younger women postponed childbearing and many are now having these postponed babies (so-called 'recuperation'). This has shown up as higher fertility rates for older women.
- However, some of the increase is also likely to be due to a 'quantum' effect — an increase in the number of babies women will ultimately have over their lifetimes. For example, today's young women say they are expecting to have more babies over their lifetime than those five years ago.
- Rising fertility reflects several factors:
 - Buoyant economic conditions and greater access to part-time jobs have reduced the financial risks associated with childbearing and lowered the costs associated with exiting and re-entering the labour market.
 - With more flexible work arrangements, women today are more able to combine participation in the labour force with childrearing roles.
 - A recent increase in the generosity of family benefits (such as family tax benefit A and the 'baby bonus'), though not targeted at fertility, is also likely to have played a part. However, that role has probably only been a modest one. Family policies are more powerful in providing income support,

improving child and parental welfare, and serving other social goals than in affecting fertility rates.

- Overall, Australia appears to be in a ‘safe zone’ of fertility, despite fertility levels being below replacement levels. There is no fertility crisis.
 - Australia’s population should continue to grow at one of the highest rates in the developed world because of migrant inflows.
 - Feasibly attainable increases in fertility would not significantly allay ageing of the population, nor address its fiscal and labour market challenges.

Productivity in the Mining Industry: Measurement and Interpretation

Vernon Topp, Leo Soames, Dean Parham and Harry Bloch, December 2008

The staff working paper examined the productivity of the Australian mining sector and highlighted some significant issues relating to the measurement and interpretation of productivity trends within the sector.

The key points of the paper were:

- Mining typically accounts for around 5 per cent of Australia’s nominal market sector gross domestic product.
 - A ‘once-in-a-generation’ shock to demand for, and prices of, mining commodities saw this share rise to 8.5 per cent in 2006-07, stimulating substantial growth in new investment, employment, and profits.
 - Yet output growth in mining in recent years has been weak at best, and multifactor productivity (MFP) has declined by 24 per cent between 2000-01 and 2006-07.
- Long lead times between investment in new capacity in mining and the associated output response can lead to short term movements in mining MFP unrelated to underlying efficiency.
 - Around one-third of the decline in mining MFP between 2000-01 and 2006-07 is estimated to be due to this temporary effect. This effect was particularly important in the last few years of this period.
- Ongoing depletion of Australia’s natural resource base is estimated to have had a significant adverse effect on long-term mining MFP.
 - In the absence of observed resource depletion, the annual rate of mining MFP growth over the period from 1974-75 to 2006-07 is estimated to have been 2.3 per cent, compared with the measured rate of 0.01 per cent.

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- Over the longer-term, MFP impacts of resource depletion have been offset by technological advances and improved management practices. An increase in the use of open-cut mining has been a key development, along with a general increase in the scale and automation of mining equipment.
 - An expected rebound in mining MFP from 2008-09 onward may be delayed as a consequence of the decline in world prices for many mineral and energy commodities in mid-to-late 2008. Any temporarily idle capital associated with production cut-backs and mine closures will tend to lower MFP. On the other hand, significantly lower commodity prices may lead mining companies to cut costs, with a positive effect on MFP.
 - Despite the impact of the fall in mining MFP, the sector has made a significant contribution to the strong overall growth in national income so far this decade through a substantial improvement in Australia's terms of trade.

Investments in Intangible Assets and Australia's Productivity Growth

Paula Barnes and Andrew McClure, March 2009

This staff working paper examined investment in intangible assets in Australia and highlighted some significant issues relating to the measurement of intangibles and their contribution to productivity.

Key points were:

- Investment in capital is important for economic growth. But capital is not just physical assets; firms also invest in 'soft' capital such as knowledge, firm-specific skills, and better ways of doing business. This investment results in accumulation of 'intangible assets'.
- Intangible assets have been categorised as computerised information, innovative property (including R&D) and economic competencies (including firm-specific human capital and organisational capital), and most are difficult to measure. These assets can depreciate more rapidly than physical capital, but they are investments nonetheless, delivering benefits over time, not just in the period the expenditure was made.
- Many elements of spending on intangibles are treated as a current expense in the national accounts rather than as an investment. This leads to an understatement of investment in the economy. It also may affect measures of multifactor productivity (MFP) growth.
- Applying the methodology of Corrado, Hulten and Sichel (2006) found that intangible investment currently is almost half the size of tangible investment in

the market sector of the Australian economy. While experimental in nature, the estimates suggest that:

- market sector investment in intangibles was \$57 billion in 2005-06, 80 per cent of which is currently not treated as investment in the national accounts
 - average annual growth in intangible investment has been about 1.3 times that of tangibles since 1974-75
 - including intangible investment in total investment largely removes the past downward trend in the market sector ratio of investment to output (gross value added)
 - investments in organisational capital (strategic planning, adaptation and reorganisation) and computerised information have grown at relatively high rates — making up 27 and 13 per cent of intangible investment in 2005-06.
- Treating investment in intangible assets as capital raises measured final output *and* measured capital inputs *and* alters the capital-labour ratio, hence the effect on measured MFP growth is complex. However, in Australia, adjusting for intangible investment not currently included in the national accounts does not have a large direct effect on the level or pattern of conventionally-measured MFP growth.
 - The contribution of these intangibles was 8 per cent of conventionally-measured MFP growth (0.09 of a percentage point) in the last productivity cycle (1998-99 to 2003-04) and 5 per cent (0.13 of a percentage point) in the period of the productivity surge (1993-94 to 1998-99). (This does not include any indirect effects, such as those arising from complementarities between intangibles and other inputs.)
 - This contrasts with the United States, where intangibles accounted for a large share of the productivity acceleration from the mid-1990s, and the United Kingdom, where a slowdown in MFP growth in the 1990s became an acceleration after adjusting for intangible investment.

Public Infrastructure Financing: An International Perspective

Chris Chan, Danny Forwood, Heather Roper and Chris Sayers, March 2009

The study explored the scope for efficient financing to reduce the life-time cost of an infrastructure project and the potential that different financing vehicles have to improve the investment decision. It did not attempt an overall comparative assessment of financing vehicles — many legal, institutional, market environment and project specific factors have to be weighed in making such judgements. Instead,

it assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the different options by comparing the experiences of a number of countries following different approaches.

Key points for the study were:

- General government investment in infrastructure has fallen in recent years for most of the countries in this study, (information is not available to assess whether this is true for public investment more generally). Nevertheless, overall investment in infrastructure has remained fairly steady in recent years, although volatile in some countries.
 - Total Australian investment in infrastructure has rebounded in recent years to just below 6 per cent of GDP in 2006-07. Sub-national governments undertook 76 per cent of public infrastructure investment, with government trading enterprises accounting for around half of this.
 - With the global financial crisis, governments are looking to infrastructure investment as a way of stimulating the economy. But financing options have also been constrained by the crisis.
- Financing decisions are separate from the investment decision and can be made independently. Financing differs from public funding: the latter being the commitment of public revenue to meet any gap between the costs of infrastructure provision and the revenue from user charges. Funding decisions carry an opportunity cost and deadweight loss of raising taxes.
- Budget appropriations, financed on a pay-as-you-go basis or from public debt, remain the major form of financing for government investment in infrastructure (63 per cent in 2006-07). Specific-purpose bonds, where repayment is linked to the performance of the asset, are a major source of finance in the United States and Canada, but were phased out in the 1980s in Australia.
- Public-private partnerships (PPP), where the government contracts a private partner to variously finance, design, build and operate infrastructure assets for a fixed period, are growing in use. Used extensively in the United Kingdom, in Australia they made up 6 per cent of public investment in 2006-07 — higher in New South Wales and Victoria.
- Some approaches used to finance public infrastructure can improve efficiency and lower the life-time project cost through:
 - better management of project risk by aligning incentives for risk management with the capacity to manage the risk
 - improvements in information, contract negotiation and management and other transaction activities that pay-off in better risk management and cost savings

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- bringing greater market or other scrutiny to bear on the investment, and imposing the costs on potential beneficiaries to better reveal their willingness to pay.
 - The most efficient financing vehicle will depend on the nature of the investment, the degree of asymmetry of information, the potential for competition, and the skills of the government as negotiators and contract managers.
 - The potential for governments to shift risk onto private partners is limited, and any non-diversifiable risk assumed by the private sector will be reflected in their required rates of return.
 - PPPs offer considerable potential to reduce project risk, but are costly to transact. If such transactions are off-budget, this may inhibit the scrutiny needed to ensure efficient investment.

Table D.1 Speeches and presentations by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff, 2008-09

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Gary Banks, Chairman:		
ANU College of Business and Economics	Building a career on solid foundations	July 2008
The Eidos Institute Breakfast Series, Brisbane	Australia's productivity challenge (and human capital)	Aug 2008
The Colin Clark Memorial Lecture 2008, University of Queensland, Brisbane	Industry policy for a productive Australia	Aug 2008
Concept Economics Seminar, Bowral	Federalism – what needs fixing?	Aug 2008
TAFE Directors' Conference, Canberra	Productivity, human capital and vocational education and training	Sept 2008
Australian-Japan Research Centre Conference on Competition Policy Reform in East Asia, Canberra	Formal Response to keynote speaker – Professor Kotaro Suzumura	Sept 2008
Economic Society of Australian 2008 Conference of Economists, Gold Coast	Evidence-based policy making and the economics profession	Oct 2008
Australian Public Service Commission Leader to Leader Seminar, Canberra	Challenges of evidence-based policy making	Oct 2008
IPAA and Griffith University Australian Federalism Conference, Tenterfield	A seamless national economy – what does it mean?	Oct 2008
OECD Group on Regulatory Policy, Paris	Regulatory Review of China; Regulatory Reform and the Management of Risk	Dec 2008
Melbourne Business School – Leading Policy Reform in Australia, Melbourne	Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Business; Industry Policy in Australia	Jan 2009
ANU Public Lecture Series — Australian & New Zealand School of Government, Canberra	Evidence-based policy: What is it? How do we get it?	Feb 2009
New Zealand Business Roundtable CEO Forum, New Zealand	Productivity Commission and Regulatory Reform in Australia	May 2009
Financial Services Institute of Australian Professional Development Seminar, Forums in Sydney and Melbourne	Executive Remuneration: an update	June 2009
CEDA State of the Nation 2009 Conference, Canberra	Policy Setting Under Current Economic Conditions	June 2009

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Table D.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Commissioners:		
Building Better Boards 4 th National Conference, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Governing for Tomorrow – conviction, courage and competence	July 2008
Terrapin 13 th Annual National Water 2008, Melbourne (Neil Byron)	National water reform	Aug 2008
Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health 2008 National Conference, Rockhampton (Robert Fitzgerald)	'Many Paddocks – one herd'	Aug 2008
Financial Ombudsman Service Insurance Division National Workshop, Melbourne, (Philip Weickhardt)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Consumer Policy Framework	Aug 2008
CEDA – Urban Water Sustainability — infrastructure and investment, Melbourne (Neil Byron)	The Productivity Commission's report on Towards Urban Water Reform: A Discussion Paper	Sept 2008
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association 2008 Congress, Canberra (Mike Woods)	How can workforce reform support the future system?	Sept 2008
SOCAP the Network for consumer professionals 2008 Symposium, Adelaide (Ian Gibbs)	The Productivity Commission's study into Review of the Australian Consumer Product Safety System	Aug 2008
Aged and Community Services Australia 2008 Conference, Adelaide (Mike Woods)	Navigating Regulatory Requirements – Driving growth, investment, regulation and compliance	Sept 2008
Australian Education Union Federal Women's Conference, Melbourne (Angela MacRae)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave draft report	Oct 2008
Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association Environment Conference, Queensland (Philip Weickhardt)	Review of regulatory burden on the upstream petroleum sector	Oct 2008
Unions Tasmania Women's Committee Paid Maternity Leave Forum, Hobart, (Angela MacRae)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave draft report	Oct 2008
Commissioner for Children and Young People — Children's Week, Perth, (Robert Fitzgerald)	Making a difference in the lives of children	Oct 2008
Australian Government, Insolvency and Trustee Service Australian 7 th National Bankruptcy Congress, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Credit regulation in Australian and the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Consumer Policy draft report	Oct 2008

Australian Government Bureau of Rural Sciences — USA-Australia Drought Workshop, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Drought in a changing climate, sharing management approaches	Nov 2008
ABS NatStats 2008 Conference, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Informing the Nation — Measuring Outcomes for Indigenous Australia	Nov 2008
Commissioner for Children and Young People stakeholders, Perth, (Robert Fitzgerald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report	Dec 2008
Australian Education Union Annual Federal Conference, Melbourne, (Angela MacRae)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave draft report	Jan 2008
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry brief to Primary Industries Standing Committee, Melbourne (Neil Byron)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Government Drought Support draft report	Jan 2009
ACCA/HFMA Australia study tour, Canberra, (Mike Woods)	Demand and supply issues	Feb 2009
UnitingCare Community Options PaCS Launch, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	The Productivity Commission's report into Trends in Aged Care Services: some implications	March 2009
Allen Consulting Group 2009 Politics and Public Policy Review, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Productivity Commission current work program	March 2009
Energy Supply Association of Australia CEO Forum, Werribee (Angela MacRae)	Productivity Commission's Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business: social and economic infrastructure service study	March 2009
Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Non Profit Studies Modernising Charity Law Conference, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	Charities and the Financial Crisis	April 2009
University of Sydney Graduate School of Government Graduate Diploma and Masters Program in Public Administration, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Policy in Practice: delivering public value	April 2009
Australian Major Charitable Organisations member meeting, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Productivity Commission's Study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	May 2009
WA Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor 2009 Australasian Casino and Gaming Regulators Conference, Perth (Robert Fitzgerald and Ralph Lattimore)	Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Gambling	May 2009
Department of Treasury Standard Business Reporting Conference, Sydney (Angela MacRae)	Where it all Began	May 2009

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Table D.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Seminar, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Productivity Commission's Study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector and Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report	May 2009
Australian Securities and Investments Commission Industry Stakeholder Meeting, Sydney (Louise Sylvan)	Behaviour Economics and Financial Literacy	May 2009
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association National Conference, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Survive and Thrive: positioning for the Future and the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Anti-dumping and Countervailing System	June 2009
The Guild Group Members Dinner, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Productivity Commission's Study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	June 2009
Melbourne Institute of Applied and Social Research — Australia's Future Tax and Transfer System, Melbourne (Angela MacRae)	Australia's Future Tax and Transfer System, Melbourne	June 2009
Staff:		
Australian Public Service Commission, Canberra (Bernard Wonder)	Linking Leaders	July 2008
New Zealand Association of Economists ESAM08 Markets and Models Conference, Wellington, New Zealand (Lou Will)	Policy Frontiers in the AWH Phillips Tradition	July 2008
Canberra Evaluation Forum, Canberra (Peter Daniel)	Evaluation of programs and services for Indigenous people	July 2008
International Productivity and Quality Centre 8 th Annual Indigenous Services Delivery Conference, Alice Springs (Lawrence McDonald)	What do we know about the contribution of mainstream services to outcomes for Indigenous People?	July 2008
Queensland Seminar with State Public Servants, Brisbane (Terry O'Brien and Jenny Gordon)	Evolving role and recent work of the Productivity Commission	Aug 2008
National Employment Services Association Annual Conference, Canberra (Troy Podbury)	The Productivity Commission's staff working paper on part time employment : the Australian experience	Aug 2008
Australian-Japan Research Centre — Competition policy reform in East Asia, Canberra (Paul Grettton)	Assessing the importance of National Economic Reform – the Productivity Commission experience	Sept 2008
Australian-Japan Research Centre's Trade in Services Conference, Canberra (Ian Gibbs)	The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Review of Price Regulation of Airports Services	Nov 2008

Aged and Community Care 18 th Annual Tri-State Conference, Melbourne (Ian Monday)	The Productivity Commission's report into Trends in Aged Care Services: some implications	March 2009
Institute of Actuaries Australia and the Australian College of Health Service Executives – Health Financing Course, Canberra (Ian Gibbs)	Demand and supply issues in Australia's health system	March 2009
ABARE National Outlook Conference 2009, Canberra (Bernard Wonder)	Productivity — an economy wide perspective	March 2009
Presidential Council on National Competitiveness & Korea Development Institute International Conference on National Competitiveness, Korea (Terry O'Brien)	Asian Countries' Challenges for National Competitiveness: the experience of Australian	March 2009
Treasury Seminar, Canberra (Paul Belin)	Cost recovery by Australian Government agencies: an outsider's perspective	April 2009
Queensland Gambling Help Service Annual Network Forum, Toowoomba (Rosalie McLachlan)	Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Gambling	April 2009

Table D.2 International delegations and visitors, 2008-09

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date and location</i>
Korean Institute of Public Administration	Regulation reform	July 08 (C)
Vietnamese Delegation	The Commission's role, functions and activities	Aug 08 (M)
Mexican Delegation	Australia's experience in assessing the regulatory impact on economic competition and implementing the program developed by the OECD, known as <i>Competition Assessment Toolkit</i>	Aug 08 (C)
Philippine delegation	Australia's National Competition Policy Reforms	Aug 08 (C)
OECD Political Economy of Reform Mission	The political economy of structural reform in Australia	Aug 08 (M/C)
APEC Training Session	The Commission's trade and assistance review (effective rates etc.); use of CGE modelling and recent work on pigmeat	Sep 08 (M/C)
OECD	Structural reforms	Sep 08 (C/M)
Korean Delegation from the Presidential Council on National Competitiveness	The Commission's role and activities	Oct 08 (C)
APEC Finance Centre, Melbourne	The Commission's role and functions	Oct 08 (C)
Budget Affairs Commission of China	Performance evaluation and reporting; public service delivery performance evaluation (social security, health and education etc.)	Oct 08 (M/C)
Delegation from Iraq	The Commission's role and function and trade reform in Australia	Nov 08 (C)
APEC Presentation	Presentation for training course on structural adjustment	Dec 08 (M)
UK Health Finance Executives	Demand and supply issues; demand: technology, ageing; supply: workforce, including flexibility and barriers to entry	Feb 09
OECD	Economic reform issues	Feb 09 (C)
Jocelyne Bourgon, President Emeritus, (Canada School of Public Service)	Public administration (how Governments prepare for the future)	Feb 09 (C)
Ministry of Manpower, Singapore	The Commission's role, responsibilities and labour market issues	Mar 09 (C)
The Hon. Simon Power, (New Zealand Minister)	The trans-Tasman Single Economic market and related issues	Mar 09 (C)

The Hon Kate Wilkinson (NZ Minister for Food Safety); Minister of Labour; Daniel Skinner, (Private Secretary) and Charlotte Beaglehole, (First Secretary, NZ High Commission).	The Commission's work on Business Regulation Benchmarking Studies on food safety and occupational health and safety	Mar 09 (C)
China Australia Governance Program (CAGP) Working Visit	Social security, savings schemes and insurance	May 09 (C)
Chilean Delegation	The Commission's role and activities	May 09 (M)
Bhutan Ministry of Economic Affairs Delegation sponsored by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	The Commission's Inquiry into Australia's Consumer Policy Framework	May 09 (C)
Development Research Centre of the State Council, People's Republic of China	Restructuring & developing service industries	Jun 09 (C)
2009 International Monetary Fund Article IV Mission to Australia	Competition, regulation reform and human capital reforms	Jun 09 (C)
China-Australia Governance Program (CAGP) China Central Party School (CCPS) Delegation	The inter-governmental fiscal transfer system in a three-tiered governmental system	Jun 09 (C)
OECD delegation	Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation	Jun 09 (C)

(C) Canberra (M) Melbourne