
E 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 2007-08, as well as briefings to international visitors.

Commission research papers

Financial performance of government trading enterprises, 2004-05 to 2005-06

July 2007

The study formed part of the Commission's research into the performance of Australian industries and the progress of microeconomic reform. The performance of 85 government trading enterprises (GTEs) providing services in key sectors of the economy — including electricity, water, urban transport, railways, ports and forestry — were presented in the report. These GTEs controlled about 3.3 per cent of Australia's non-household assets (\$197 billion), and accounted for around 2 per cent of GDP in 2005-06.

Key points of the study were:

- Overall, the profitability of GTEs increased by 61 per cent in 2005-06 with improvements recorded in all sectors compared with the previous year. The largest improvements were in the electricity, railways and forestry sectors. However, profitability varied among GTEs:
 - profits declined for 37 per cent of GTEs
 - eleven GTEs (six in the water sector) failed to report a profit

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- for most sectors recording a profit improvement, much of this was derived from the performance of only one of the GTEs in that sector (between 39 and 65 per cent of increased profits).
 - Although the return on assets improved on average, about half of the monitored GTEs earned less than the long-term bond rate in 2005-06. This implies that an even greater proportion did not earn a commercial rate of return (which would include a margin for risk).
 - The poor financial performance of many GTEs underscores a longer-term failure to operate these businesses on a fully commercial basis in accordance with competition policy agreement undertakings.
 - In total, GTEs made dividend payments to owner-governments of almost \$5.6 billion in 2005-06 (\$3 billion excluding Telstra). In addition, tax and tax-equivalent payments totalled \$3.3 billion (\$1.9 billion excluding Telstra).
 - Asset valuation methods influence capital management through their effect on performance measurement, transparency and accountability. A survey of 58 GTEs revealed that 41 per cent used an historical cost method in 2005-06, even though the optimal deprival value method has been endorsed by governments as the preferred method for valuing GTE assets.
 - The economic rate of return (ERR) is a measure of capital management efficiency that has regard for the capital as well as the cash streams of income. The more widely used accounting rate of return (ARR) only captures cash streams of income. Estimates for 56 GTEs over the period 2000-01 to 2003-04 indicate that:
 - many GTEs did not achieve a return on assets exceeding the risk-free rate using either the ERR (42 per cent of GTEs) or the ARR (52 per cent of GTEs); and ERR estimates were higher than those of the ARR.

Towards urban water reform: a discussion paper

March 2008

The discussion paper formed part of a suite of research papers developed under the Environment and Resource Management research theme. In considering current urban water management, the paper found that some of the issues are complex to resolve and the paper did not lay out a particular blueprint for reform. Nevertheless, the Commission found that the direction for reform seems clear. Key areas for more detailed assessment that it identifies include allowing a greater role for prices to signal water scarcity and to allocate resources; removing artificial impediments to

rural urban water trading; and removing barriers to competition in the supply and retailing of urban water.

The key points of the paper were:

- There is no effective market for urban water. Governments (operating as planners, suppliers, distributors and retailers) make supply investments and manage available water with only limited knowledge about the value that users place on the resource.
- Charging regimes now recover operating costs and a return on assets but do not reflect the scarcity of water in times of shortage. Instead, demand is managed by overriding the preferences of urban consumers through restrictions on water uses.
 - The annual cost to households of restrictions would amount to billions of dollars.
- For the past two decades, and in contrast to earlier years, most governments avoided investments to augment supply. More recently, they have embarked on a range of projects including desalination, recycling and some links to rural supplies.
 - Efficient water supply decision-making needs to be based on cost–benefit frameworks that assess the relative merits of the various augmentation options in ways that better address climate-related uncertainty and which can adapt to improved understanding of future needs and supply options.
- Policies that restrict interaction between water used by rural and urban sectors limit opportunities for inter-sectoral trade. This distorts water use and infrastructure investment decisions.
- Monopoly provision of urban water impedes opportunities to develop alternative supply sources. Reform has been confined to governance arrangements rather than the structural changes necessary to achieve more efficient outcomes.
- A well-functioning urban water market could provide more timely investment signals, a wider range of innovative supply options, greater choice of products and options for water users and more efficient use of nationwide water resources. This is attainable without compromising equity, health, safety or environmental objectives.
 - Equity concerns can be addressed effectively by targeted policy instruments.
- The direction, if not the end point, for reform seems clear. The potential gains are sufficient to warrant a comprehensive public review to determine the extent to which a more market-oriented focus could be pursued and to alert the

community to the tradeoffs. Key areas that warrant investigation include an assessment of the costs and benefits of:

- allowing a greater role for prices to signal water scarcity and to allocate resources
- removing the artificial impediments to rural-urban water trading
- removing barriers to competition in the supply and retailing of urban water.
- Transaction and adjustment costs need to be assessed in conjunction with how best to sequence incremental or co-ordinated reforms.
- Existing inter-jurisdictional arrangements such as the National Water Initiative could be modified to progress a more ambitious and coordinated reform agenda.

Submissions

What role for policies to supplement an Emissions Trading Scheme? Productivity Commission submission to the Garnaut Climate Change Review

May 2008

Responding to a request from the Garnaut Review, the Commission examined different categories of greenhouse policy and whether they would complement an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). It also considered the scope to lower the costs of emission reductions by widening the sectoral coverage of policy action, either within the ETS or by other means.

Key points included:

- Where activities are covered by an ETS, individuals and firms factor the traded price of greenhouse gas emissions into their decision-making and adjust their production and consumption in the most cost-effective way.
 - An effective ETS therefore is most likely to achieve a given abatement target at least cost to the community.
- With an effective ETS, much of the current patchwork of climate change policies will become redundant and there will only be a residual role for state, territory and local government initiatives.
- Once an ETS is in place, other abatement policies generally change the mix, not the quantity, of emissions reduction. Retaining existing, or introducing new,

policies to supplement the ETS would need to offer other benefits. Those with potential include:

- addressing a lack of incentive to conduct research and development in low-emissions technologies
 - addressing barriers to the take-up of cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities
 - exploiting abatement potential in sectors and activities not covered by the ETS.
- Currently, the most significant climate change policy instrument is the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) which is marked for significant expansion. However, with an effective ETS in place, the MRET would:
 - not achieve any additional abatement but impose additional administrative costs
 - most likely lead to higher electricity prices
 - provide a signal that lobbying for government support for certain technologies and industries over others could be successful.
 - The extent to which land use, agriculture and forestry will be included initially in the ETS is uncertain. While it appears feasible to include forestry and some elements of agriculture, it is unclear whether this is the best option.
 - Other policies in uncovered sectors could encourage additional abatement. A key example is credit for carbon sequestration (greenhouse gas offsets). But ensuring the effectiveness of such arrangements can be difficult and costly.
 - There is little benefit in Australia pursuing emission reductions that are not recognised under international rules. This has implications for linking with other countries' emissions trading schemes.
 - All supplementary policies must be subject to rigorous evidence-based analysis to determine if their rationales are sound and, if so, whether intervention would deliver a net community benefit after consideration of the costs of action.

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.

Precaution and the Precautionary Principle: Two Australian Case Studies

Annette Weier and Paul Loke, September 2007

Many policy issues, particularly in environmental and natural resource management areas, are subject to significant uncertainties. In such circumstances, policymakers may adopt a cautious approach to decision making. Precautionary measures may be implemented to address potential, but uncertain, threats.

Applying precaution often raises questions about application of the Precautionary Principle. The Principle was conceived as a response to the inherent difficulties faced by decision makers confronted with uncertain potential outcomes. Its purpose is to remove uncertainty as an obstacle to addressing potential environmental and health hazards. However, much confusion surrounds the Principle and its role in decision making under uncertainty.

The paper examined two Australian case studies where precaution has been an important element in decision making — fisheries management and licensing of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It considered three key issues:

- the basis for precautionary decision making
- how precaution has been applied in practice
- whether (and how) the Precautionary Principle contributed to precautionary decision making.

Key points from the paper were:

- Private activities, and government regulatory actions or inaction, can have impacts on the environment and on human health. Scientific uncertainty about such impacts compounds the problems that confront policymakers.
- In environmental and natural resource management areas subject to scientific uncertainty, policy development can be enhanced by clarifying precautionary decision making processes, and the role of the Precautionary Principle itself.
- There is widespread confusion about the meaning and influence of the many versions of the Precautionary Principle.

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- The most widely adopted versions, based on the United Nations’ ‘Rio definition’, seek to ensure that uncertainty about potentially serious hazards does not justify ignoring them.
 - More prescriptive versions can mandate precautionary action without recourse to an assessment of the costs and benefits.
 - Importantly, precautionary measures can be adopted without reference to the Precautionary Principle where, for instance, legislative objectives relating to ecological sustainability and human health apply.
 - The versions of the Principle adopted in Australia, which reflect the ‘Rio definition’, permit precautionary measures but do not specify the nature or the extent of precaution to be applied. Decision makers therefore apply precaution through risk management frameworks that take account of uncertainty.
 - Efficient and effective implementation of precaution requires decision makers to take account of the full range of relevant factors, including the magnitude, nature and severity of potential harm, as well as the economic, social, environmental, and health costs and benefits.
 - Two case studies — fisheries management and licensing of releases of genetically modified organisms — illustrate how precaution has been applied in Australia.
 - The different risk management frameworks adopted reflect variations in legislative objectives, knowledge bases, and types of hazards.
 - Confusion about the role of the Precautionary Principle may have contributed to public and industry dissatisfaction with some precautionary decisions.
 - Decision makers are improving the transparency and accountability of their processes.

A User’s Guide to the Modified Demographic and Economic Model (MoDEM),

Technical paper, September 2007

A demographic model was created for the Commission’s 2005 report on the *Economic Implications of an Ageing Australia*. It was modified for the Commission’s 2007 report on the Potential Benefits of the National Reform Agenda.

The Modified Demographic and Economic Model (MoDEM) was used in this paper to calculate population, labour supply and GDP projections under different socioeconomic assumptions. Key results included population size, dependency

ratios, aggregate participation rates, GDP and GDP per capita. Two sets of projections can be compared to evaluate the effects of a change in assumptions. Projections generated with the model are conditional, based on assumptions about demography and labour supply. They are not forecasts.

MoDEM consists of three Excel modules:

- demographic projection module
- labour projection module
- optional module to disaggregate the national projections to the state and territory level — the State and Territory Disaggregation Module (STDM).

The MoDEM installation program and User's Guide can be downloaded from the Commission's website.

The Stern Review: an assessment of its methodology

Rick Baker, Andrew Barker, Alan Johnston and Michael Kohlhaas, January 2008

The Staff Working Paper was originally prepared as an internal research memorandum following release of the Stern Review's report. It was decided to make it more widely available given its ongoing relevance in light of the Garnaut Climate Change Review.

The Stern Review: The Economics of Climate Change was released in October 2006. Based on its analysis of costs, benefits and risks, the Review called for strong, early action on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. The Review established climate change as an economic issue that can be assessed through the 'lens' of a cost-benefit framework.

The staff paper examined the analytical approach adopted by the Stern Review. It found that the Stern Review made some important analytical advances. It sought to move beyond analysis based on the mean expected outcome, to one that incorporates low probability (but potentially catastrophic) events at the tail of probability distributions. The Review also attempted a more comprehensive coverage of damage costs than most previous studies.

The paper also found that value judgements and ethical perspectives in key parts of the Stern Review's analysis led to estimates of future economic damages being substantially higher, and abatement costs lower, than most previous studies. The paper noted that the Review could usefully have included more sensitivity analysis to highlight the consequences of alternative assumptions or judgements.

Distributional effects of changes in Australian infrastructure industries during the 1990s

George Verikios and Xiao-guang Zhang, January 2008

The key points of this paper were:

- During the 1990s, reforms and other developments improved productivity and reduced prices in Australian infrastructure services. These changes raised the average incomes of Australian households.
- Household incomes increased in every jurisdiction and in every decile of the income distribution.
- Changes in the electricity and telecommunications industries dominated distributional outcomes. The main sources of change were productivity improvements and lower real prices.
- There was a mix of direct price effects, indirect price effects and income effects:
 - Direct price effects: real prices paid by households for most infrastructure services declined. Low-income households gained proportionately more from such declines than high-income households.
 - Indirect price effects: decreasing infrastructure prices lowered costs for industry and, consequently, output prices fell. This reduced households' expenditure and the cost of Australia's exports. Output increased in some industries. This increased the demand for other inputs which, in turn, led to wage increases in some occupations and increased returns to capital. This led to costs and prices rising, and output falling, in some industries.
 - Income effects: wages increased most for occupations that are more heavily represented in high-income households. High income households also receive a large proportion of return to capital, which also increased. Low-income households that do not rely on wage incomes were not affected directly by the changes in wages.
- Government transfers were indexed to the consumer price index and average weekly earnings. Low-income households rely more on these transfers than other households. Indexing the transfers contributed to maintaining real incomes in low-income deciles.
- Overall, the effect on household income distribution was small, slightly favouring more affluent households, because increases in factor incomes (wages and returns to capital) dominated.

Migration, trade and investment

Ben Dolman, February 2008

Migrants affect many aspects of the community and economy in which they live. Some of the direct economic effects of migrants living within Australia were described in the Productivity Commission's (2006) report on the *Economic Impacts of Migration and Population Growth*. That report showed that migrants tend to raise Australian living standards — measured as GDP per capita — somewhat, because Australia's migrants are more highly skilled than the locally-born population on average and more concentrated in working age groups.

This paper focused on a less direct way in which migrants may affect living standards: by strengthening international social and business networks, thereby facilitating trade and investment flows.

The key points were:

- Migrants can help to build social and business networks that improve the quality of information flowing between countries and lower the costs of international trade and investment. This may particularly benefit Australia, which has a large and growing migrant population.
- The patterns of trade and investment across the OECD suggest that migrant networks are important. Countries tend to trade and invest more with countries from which they have received more migrants and, at least for trade, this relationship appears to be stronger where information barriers like distance and language would otherwise more greatly inhibit trade.
- This does not necessarily mean that countries with more migrants should be expected to trade and invest much more in total. This study finds that, by lowering the cost of trade between a pair of countries, migrants appear to reduce trade with other countries so that the overall effect on aggregate trade seems quite small. By contrast, there was no strong evidence that a reduction in investment with other countries accompanies the positive effect of migrants on bilateral investment.

The Armington General Equilibrium Model: Properties, Implications and Alternatives

Xiao-guang Zhang, February 2008

Many of the large general equilibrium models used in trade and industry policy analysis adopt the Armington assumption of product differentiation by country of

origin. This assumption provides a rationale for the existence of ‘cross-hauling’ data and offers a basis for modelling intra-industry trade.

This however results in a model whose properties and behaviour are fundamentally different from the well-known Heckscher-Ohlin (H-O) model, making some theorems derived from the H-O model difficult to use in policy analysis.

The aim of this research was to compare the Armington model with the traditional H-O model in a consistent framework and determine the implications of these differences for current modelling practices and for policy analysis with Armington models.

The paper argued that by combining both frameworks to incorporate inter-industry trade and intra-industry trade, a hybrid model can be constructed. The so-called ‘Armington-Heckscher-Ohlin’ (A-H-O) model inherits the strengths of both models, while reducing the problems associated with the two models. By introducing homogenous goods into the Armington model's framework (which is dominated by differentiated goods), the A-H-O model can capture more production gains from comparative advantage and, at the same time, maintain consumption gains from product differentiation. This structure helps moderate the overwhelming influence of household preferences for differentiated goods on the terms of trade found in the Armington model and, at the same time, avoids the indeterminacy or complete specialisation found in the H-O model.

This research forms part of the Commission’s research program dedicated to examining and clarifying the role of the Armington assumption commonly used in trade policy analysis. It follows publication in 2006 of the staff working paper, *The Armington Model*.

Part-time employment: the Australian experience

Joanna Abhayaratna, Les Andrews, Hudan Nuch and Troy Podbury, June 2008

This paper provided an overview of the changing role of part-time work in Australia over the past few decades.

The paper compared the prevalence and growth of part time work in Australia and overseas. The changing role that part time work has played in the Australian labour market was examined. The paper identified those groups that are more likely to work part-time, what industries they work in, and their characteristics and attitudes to work.

The key points of the report were:

- Part-time work has become an important form of employment growing from 10 per cent of total employment in 1966 to 29 per cent in 2007. The prevalence of part-time work has increased for both men and women and for all age groups.
- Both supply-side and demand-side factors have driven the growth in part-time employment.
 - A key supply side factor includes the entry into the workforce of people combining employment and other activities such as education and raising a family.
 - An important demand side factor is employers using part-time employment to increase operational flexibility.
- The high level of casual work among part-time workers means that they have less access to many conditions of full time employment.
- The part-time workforce is a diverse group in terms of their characteristics and attitudes to work. The household circumstances of part-time workers vary, as does the contribution of their labour income to the household budget — from being the only source of labour income to a negligible source.
- Part-time workers are not a static group. There is considerable movement into and out of part-time work both as labour market conditions change and as workers move through their life cycle and their work/life priorities change.
- At the aggregate level there appears little compelling evidence for a dual labour market between part-time and full-time work. Nonetheless, many workers find it difficult to change the number of hours that they work, suggesting that there may be some obstacles to mobility even in the current strong labour market.
- Since the early 1990s, 20–25 per cent of female part-time workers and 30–35 per cent of male part-time workers have indicated a preference to work more hours. At the same time, there is evidence to suggest that two full-time workers want to move to part-time work for every part-time worker who wants to move to full-time work.
 - It is not clear what the impact on aggregate hours worked would be from any changes to working arrangements which allow a better matching of desired and actual working hours. That said, the wellbeing of workers would be improved.

Table E.1 Speeches and presentations by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff, 2007-08

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Gary Banks, Chairman:		
Lowy Institute and Tasman Transparency Group Conference, Sydney	Domestic Transparency in Australia: the role of 'the Commission'	July 2007
ANZSOG Research Workshop, Canberra	Research and Public Policy	July 2007
CEDA Trustees Luncheon, Melbourne	Reducing the Redtape Burden: How are we going?	July 2007
Clubs NSW Australian Gaming Expo Conference Program, Sydney	Gambling in Australia: are we balancing the equation?	Aug 2007
China Australia Governance Program, International workshop on Public Inquiries and Economic System, Beijing, China	Public inquiries in policy formulation: Australia's Productivity Commission	Sept 2007
ASIC, APRA, FICA and the Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies Financial Regulation Conference, Melbourne	Program on regulatory reform	Sept 2007
Environment Protection and Heritage Council Standing Committee Meeting, Melbourne (with Neil Bryon and Bernard Wonder)	Productivity Commission issue and regulatory reform	Sept 2007
COAG Reform Council, Melbourne (with Bernard Wonder and Paul Gretton),	National Reform Agenda	Oct 2007
WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Perth	Reform progress and outlook	Nov 2007
Office of Best Practice Regulation Cost Benefit Analysis Conference, Canberra	Setting the scene	Nov 2007
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research Housing Affordability Public Forum, Canberra	Introduction	Nov 2007
Melbourne Business School Elective Subject — Leading Policy Reform in Australia, Melbourne	Industry policy evolution in Australia	Jan 2007
Melbourne Business School Elective Subject — Leading Policy Reform in Australia, Melbourne	Reducing regulatory burdens on business	Jan 2007
CEDA Trustees Luncheon, Melbourne	The microeconomic reform agenda	March 2008

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
The Melbourne Institute and the Australian Research Development 2008 Economic and Social Outlook Conference, Melbourne	Riding the Third Wave: some challenges in national reform	March 2008
Medicines Australia AusPharma 08 — Charting the Future, Canberra	Industry policy settings and the pharmaceutical industry	April 2008
2020 Summit, Infrastructure Stream	Issues in Infrastructure: An introduction	April 2008
Development Research Centre of the State Council of the Republic of China and EABER Roundtable, Beijing, China	Structural Reform — comparative experience	April 2008
2 nd Annual NZ Regulatory Evolution Summit, Wellington, New Zealand	Evolution of regulatory reform in Australia	May 2008
APEC Deputies Meeting, Brisbane	Institutions and structural reform	June 2008
ANZ International Conference of Commercial Bank Economists Luncheon, Melbourne	The role of the Productivity Commission in Australia's reform story	June 2008
Menzies Health Policy Oration, Canberra	Health costs and policy in an ageing Australia	June 2008
Commissioners:		
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission HREOC Social Justice Launch, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Release of directions of the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report	July 2007
Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Affairs, Adelaide (Robert Fitzgerald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report	Aug 2007
Development Research Centre of State Council and the National Development and Reform Commission Workshop, Beijing, China (Mike Woods)	Australia's Public Inquiry experience and economic system report	Sept 2007
Ministry of Finance workshop on the role of quantitative analysis in policy development, Beijing, China (Mike Woods & Paul Gretton)	Modelling the Distributional Effects of Economic Reform	Sept 2007
State Information centre seminar, Beijing, China (Mike Woods & Paul Gretton)	National Economic Reform: role of competition policy	Sept 2007

ACCORD Australasian National Conference, Gold Coast (Mike Woods)	Chemicals and Plastics Regulation	Oct 2007
Chairs of NSW Catchment Management Authorities, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, and BDI Ltd, Sydney (Neil Byron)	An assessment framework for the application of MBIs to Catchment Management	Nov 2007
Two Ways Together and NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs Luncheon Seminar, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report	Nov 2007
Centre for Military and Veteran's Health — Future issues in military and Veteran's Health Service Delivery, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	The Productivity Commission's report on Australia's Health Workforce	Nov 2007
Centre for Credit and Consumer Law Roundtable, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	Consumer Policy Review	Dec 2007
ABARE Outlook 2008 Conference, Canberra (Mike Woods)	R&D and Innovation in Agriculture	March 2008
The Treasury, National Consumer Congress 2008, Perth (Robert Fitzgerald)	Current and future issues for Consumer Policy — Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Australian Consumer Policy Framework	March 2008
Australia Council for International Development 10 th Anniversary Forum, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Non-profit agencies	March 2008
Informa — addressing the Healthcare Skills Crisis, Sydney (Mike Woods)	Australian Health Workforce Arrangements	March 2008
CropLife Australia — Crop Protection Members Forum, Sydney (Mike Woods)	The Life and Times of the Productivity Commission	March 2008
Fire Protection Association Australia — Hazmat 2008, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Review of Chemicals and Plastics draft report	May 2008
Global Access Partners Water Forum, Melbourne (Neil Byron)	Urban water pricing	June 2008
2008 meeting of the National Women's Secretariats, Broken Hill (Robert Fitzgerald)	The Productivity Commission's Paid Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave inquiry	June 2008
PACIA National Conference , Melbourne (Siobhan McKenna)	Future Regulations: the Productivity Commission study on Chemicals and Plastics	June 2008
AWA Urban Water Reform Forum, Brisbane (Neil Byron)	Governance and Structures in a Challenging Climate	June 2008
Department of Climate Change, Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra (Neil Byron, Alan Johnston & Rick Baker)	Greenhouse frontiers: What role for policies to supplement and Emissions Trading Scheme?	June 2008

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Staff:		
Treasury Academic Consultative Panel Workshop, Canberra (Dean Parham)	Analysis of the links between infrastructure and productivity	Aug 2007
Seminar to Commonwealth Treasury, Canberra (Patrick Laplagne)	Effects of health and education on labour force participation	Aug 2007
University of Adelaide Luncheon Seminar, Adelaide (Dean Parham)	Australia's productivity performance in the 21 st century	Aug 2007
MaryMead and ARACY 'What works for children: bridging the gaps' early childhood Conference, Canberra (Catherine Andersson)	Collaboration in the Review of Government Service Provision: Measuring whole of government performance in Australia	Aug 2007
Department of the Senate, training program for delegates of the National Assembly of Vietnam and Provincial Peoples Councils, Sydney (Chris Sayers & Julia Thomson)	The role of the Productivity Commission; microeconomic reform in Australia: monitoring financial performance and governance of GTEs – the Productivity Commission's research and findings	Aug 2007
National Development Reform Commission of China and the OECD Seminar on Regulatory Policy, Market Openness and Competition Policy, Beijing, China (Patrick Jomini)	Market openness and regulatory reform: understanding the links to enhanced economic performance	Sept 2007
Australian Human Resources Summit 2007, Sydney (Patrick Laplagne)	Securing Australia's stock of human capital for the next 25 years	Sept 2007
Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit Critical Debates in Aboriginal Health, Melbourne (Lawrence McDonald)	Aspects of the work on the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage report	Sept 2007
Australian Conference of Economists, Hobart (Andrew Barker)	The Stern Review and other economic analyses of climate change: a sensitivity analysis	Sept 2007
Annual Economic Framework Conference, Melbourne (Lisa Gripp)	Maximising the benefits of private provision of infrastructure	Sept 2007
The Economics of Heritage National Workshop on Integrating the Costs and Benefits of Heritage into Government Decision Making, Canberra (Scott Austin)	Findings of the Productivity Commission's Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places inquiry	Oct 2007
The Economics of Heritage National Workshop on Integrating the Costs and Benefits of Heritage into Government Decision Making, Canberra (Rod Bogaards)	Cost Benefit Analysis and Heritage Regulation	Oct 2007

Australian Public Service Commission's SES Orientation Program, Canberra, (Bernard Wonder)	Public Accountability	Oct 2007
University of Sydney Contemporary Issues Lecture, Sydney (Rosalyn Bell & Ineke Redmond)	Water use in Australian agriculture and farm performance	Oct 2007
The Australia and New Zealand School of Government Seminar, Melbourne (Ralph Lattimore)	Economic regulation	Oct 2007
University of Western Australian and Australian National University Annual PhD Conference in Economics and Business, Perth (Jonathan Pincus)	Comment on 'Trade Agreements under Political Pressures'	Nov 2007
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Graduate Trade Policy Course, Canberra (Tom Nankivell)	The economics of trade liberalisation	Nov 2007
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Graduate Trade Policy Course, Canberra (Tom Nankivell)	The economics of trade liberalisation; trade and environment; and trade and labour standards	Nov 2007
Australia New Zealand Population Workshop, Sydney (Graeme Cuxson)	Updateable, flexible, easy to use — MoDEM 2.0	Nov 2007
Policy Futures in Urban Water Roundtable, Canberra (Alan Johnston)	Urban water demand management and supply issues	Nov 2007
Cost Benefit Analysis Conference, Canberra (Mark Harrison)	Valuing the future: choosing the discount rate in cost-benefit analysis	Nov 2007
Cost Benefit Analysis Conference, Canberra (Jonathan Pincus)	Summing up the issues	Nov 2007
Setting Priorities for Services Trade Reform, Canberra (Owen Gabbitas)	Assessing productivity in the delivery of health services in Australia: some experimental estimates	Nov 2007
Economic Measurement Group Workshop, Sydney (Dean Parham)	R&D, Intangibles and Productivity	Dec 2007
Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Productivity Commission Productivity Perspectives 2007 Conference, Canberra (Owen Gabbitas)	Assessing productivity in the delivery of health services in Australia: some experimental estimates	Dec 2007
ACCC Seminar, Melbourne (Mark Harrison)	Valuing the Future: choosing the discount rate in cost-benefit analysis	Jan 2008
National Indigenous Health Equity Summit, Canberra (Peter Daniel)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Framework	March 2008

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
APEC Workshop on Government Performance and Results Management, Taipei, Taiwan (Michael Kirby)	Public sector performance monitoring, governance and Australia's Productivity Commission	March 2008
2008 Economic and Social Outlook Conference, Melbourne (Alan Johnston)	Environmental Constraints	March 2008
Micro-economic Foundations of Economic Policy Performance in Asia Conference, New Delhi, India (Paul Gretton)	Assessing the importance of national economic reform — Australian Productivity Commission experience	April 2008
Treasury 2020 Summit Roundtable, Canberra (Ralph Lattimore)	Implications of Ageing	April 2008
CEDA 2008 Public Health Policy Seminar, Melbourne (Lisa Gropp)	Medical Technology: contribution and cost	April 2008
2 nd Annual Australian Workplace Relations Summit, Sydney (Anthony Shomas)	Workforce participation overview and implications	May 2008
The Australia and New Zealand School of Government Seminar, Sydney (Ralph Lattimore)	Economic regulation	May 2008
La France en Europe: Un Acteur pas comme les autres? Paris, France (Ian Gibbs)	Priorities for reform in the EU	June 2008
Eleventh Annual GTAP Conference, Helsinki, Finland (Patrick Jomini)	Future of Global Economy	June 2008
European Commission, Brussels, Belgium (Ian Gibbs)	Productivity Commission's report on Australia's consumer policy framework	June 2008

Table E.2 International delegations and visitors, 2007-08

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date and location</i>
Delegation from Indonesia's Ministry of Finance	The Commission's role and functions	July 07 (C)
USA Economic and Trade Media Visitors	Economic and trade policy issues	July 07 (C)
OECD Structural visit	Structural economic issues in support of OECD 2008 Economic Survey of Australia	July 07 (C)
Delegation from China	Modelling the Distribution Effects of Economic Reform	July 07 (C)
Canadian Competition Bureau	The Commission's role and functions and promotion of public understanding of matters related to industry and productivity	Aug 07 (M)
Vietnamese Delegation	Monitoring financial performance and governance of government trading enterprises	Aug 07 (Sydney)
Malaysian Ministry of Health Delegation	Australian Health Sector Workforce Reforms	Aug (C)
South African Delegation	International best practice in the policy-making arena and stakeholder management process	Sept 07 (C)
Canadian Council of Chief Executives	Issues relating to competitiveness	Sept 07 (C)
Delegation from China's National Development and Reform Commission	To inform and provide a reference point for ongoing taxation and fiscal reform in China	Sept 07 (C)
Chinese Delegation Workshop	The Commission's role, function and activities; relationship with the Australian Government and roles in the economic reform and policy formations	Sept 07 (M)
Delegation from Thailand's Fiscal Policy Research Institute	Adjustment programs implemented in Australia and effectiveness rates of assistance	Oct 07 (M)
Australia-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry	The Commission's role, function and activities	Nov 07 (C)
Vietnamese Ministerial Delegation	The Commission's role and functions	Nov 07 (C)
Officials from the Finance Ministries and Planning Agencies of Indonesia and China	The Commission's role, function and activities	Nov 07 (C)
UK Competition Council	The Commission's competition issues (for example, Airports)	Dec 07 (C)

(continued next page)

Table E.2 (continued)

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date and location</i>
Delegation from China's Democratic Republic	The Commission's role, function and activities and the inquiry into First Home Ownership	Dec 07 (M)
Delegation from Germany's Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	The Commission's role, function and activities and economic reform	Feb 08 (C)
NZ Ministry of Economic Development	Trans-Tasman cooperation	Feb 08 (M)
Assoc. Prof. William Morrison (Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada)	Airport Governance	Feb 08 (C)
South African Delegation	The Commission's role, function and activities	Feb 08 (C)
China's National Development Reform Commission	Workshop on National Development Reform Commission's proposal to reform revenue rights and expenditure responsibilities amongst the five levels of government in China	Mar 08 (M)
China's National Development Reform Commission	National Development Reform Commission policy proposals drawing on Australian experience	April 08 (C)
Korean Small Business Council	The Commission's role, function and activities and the Trade Assistance Review report process and outcome	April 08 (C)
NZ Ministry for the Environment	Water and Water rights	May 08 (C)
Maori Affairs Committee of the New Zealand House of Representatives	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage	May 08 (C)
UK Civil Aviation Authority Economic Regulation Group	Airport Regulation	May 08 (C)
OECD Policy Mission	Issues of productivity trends and structural reform	June 08 (C)
IMF Article IV Mission	Competition, regulation reform and human capital reforms	June 08 (C)

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