



Australian Government
Productivity Commission

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The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission, is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by consideration 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



Australian Government
Productivity Commission

The Assistant Treasurer
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Assistant Treasurer

We submit to you the Productivity Commission's annual report for 2007-08. The report is prepared in accordance with section 10 of the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*. The Commission's Act requires that a copy of this report be tabled within 15 sitting days of each House of Parliament after the day of receipt of the report.

Yours sincerely

Gary Banks
Chairman

Angela MacRae
Commissioner

Matthew Butlin
Commissioner

Judith Sloan
Commissioner

Neil Byron
Commissioner

Louise Sylvan
Commissioner

Robert Fitzgerald
Commissioner

Philip Weickhardt
Commissioner

Steven Kates
Commissioner

Michael Woods
Commissioner

Chairman and Commissioners



Gary Banks (Chairman) and Angela MacRae



Stephen Kates, Mike Woods and Neil Byron



Robert Fitzgerald and Louise Sylvan



Philip Weickhardt, Matthew Butlin and Judith Sloan

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The Commission wishes to thank its staff for their continued efforts, commitment and support during the past year.

Contents

Abbreviations	X
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CHAPTERS

1 Enhancing Australia's productivity growth	1
Why is productivity growth important?	1
What has happened to Australia's productivity growth and why?	6
The outlook for productivity growth	11
What policies will facilitate productivity growth?	13
2 Review of Commission activities and performance	23
Overview	24
Year in review	27
Transparency and public consultation	33
Feedback on the Commission's work	40
Policy and wider impacts	43
Associated reporting	48

APPENDICES

A Management and accountability	51
B Program performance	85
C Government commissioned projects	147
D Competitive neutrality complaints	171
E Supporting research and related activities	175
F Publications	195
G Financial statements	201
Compliance index	83

Attachments

A1	Commissioner and employee statistics	71
A2	Fraud control certificate	74
A3	Commonwealth Disability Strategy: outcomes against performance indicators	75
A4	Consultancies	78
A5	Freedom of Information Statement	80
A6	Compliance index	83

References	244
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Index	257
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BOXES

1.1	Measuring productivity trends	3
1.2	Productivity growth provides higher incomes to meet some key challenges	6
1.3	International comparisons of productivity and income growth	8
1.4	A hypothetical illustration of organisation-level influences on average productivity	14
1.5	Regulatory ‘hotspots’ identified by COAG	19
2.1	Commission publications in 2007-08	25
2.2	Participative and transparent processes: two examples	34
2.3	Support for Commission activities: some recent examples	42
B.1	Performance indicators for Commission outputs	89
B.2	The longer-term influence of Commission reports	91
B.3	Supporting research and annual reporting publications, 2007-08	139
B.4	Supporting research projects underway at 30 June 2008	140

FIGURES

1.1	How productivity growth contributes to wellbeing	2
1.2	Contribution to income growth — the importance of productivity	4
1.3	Annual average change, percentage points	7
1.4	Multifactor productivity in broad industry groups	10
1.5	Multifactor productivity	11

1.6	Innovation, diffusion and productivity growth	16
2.1	References on hand	27
2.2	Website hits	40
2.3	Mentions of the Commission in Australian parliaments, 2004-05 to 2007-08	46
A.1	Productivity Commission structure and senior staff, 30 June 2008	53
B.1	Productivity Commission outcome/output framework 2007-08	86
B.2	Comparability of indicators	127

TABLES

A.1	Financial and staffing resources summary	54
A.2	Performance bonuses paid for 2007-08	62
A.3	Expenditure on consultants, 2003-04 to 2007-08	67
B.1	Use of Commission outputs in recent parliamentary committee reports	96
B.2	Parliamentary Library use of Commission outputs in 2007-08	98
B.3	Program of public inquiries and other government-commissioned projects	106
B.4	Public inquiry and other commissioned project activity, 2002-03 to 2007-08	107
B.5	Cost of public inquiries and other commissioned projects completed in 2007-08	108
B.6	Direct administrative expenditure on public inquiries and other government-commissioned projects, 2003-04 to 2007-08	108
B.7	Impact of Commission inquiry reports on policy making	116
B.8	Indicators reported on a comparable basis, 2008 Report	129
C.1	Stage of completion of commissioned projects and government responses to Commission reports	148
E.1	International delegations and visitors, 2007-08	193

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
AGCNCO	Australian Government Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APS	Australian Public Service
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CRC	COAG Reform Council
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
GTEs	Government trading enterprises
MFP	multifactor productivity
NCP	National Competition Policy
NRA	National Reform Agenda
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
OHS	Occupation health and safety
PC	Productivity Commission
R&D	Research and development
SES	Senior Executive Service
WTO	World Trade Organization