
E Supporting research and related activities

The Commission's supporting research program encompasses a range of activities. This appendix provides brief summaries of 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 2009-10, as well as briefings to international visitors.

Submissions

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network

July 2009

In its submission, the Commission took as its starting point the decision by the Government to proceed with a rollout of fibre to the premises (FTTP). The submission was designed to assist the Committee in its examination of issues still at that time open to consideration, such as timing, sequencing, financing and regulation.

As the Commission had not been tasked to undertake work in the telecommunications area for some time, the submission was of a general nature, providing some 'best practice' policy and regulatory principles to assist the Committee. Based on the Commission's work, the submission examined:

- the potential benefits from fast broadband
- cost-benefit analysis
- the financing of infrastructure
- pricing and access to infrastructure.

On potential benefits from fast broadband, the submission observed that an efficient, well regulated and widely accessible National Broadband Network (NBN)

might be expected to facilitate further direct productivity benefits, enabling a greater volume of information and data to be transmitted over a specified time. An equally important message emerging from a variety of Commission work is that the scope for Australia to reap the benefits potentially on offer from the NBN and other information and communications technology (ICT) innovations, such as higher capacity wireless connectivity, will depend critically on strong competition among users to drive the search for profitable applications, and on a supportive, flexible and responsive policy and regulatory environment. Hence, policies or regulations that unnecessarily inflate the costs of using new ICTs, or that limit competition among potential users, will reduce or at least delay uptake and the associated benefits. So too will prescriptive or otherwise inefficient regulations that limit the ways in which ICTs can be provided.

On cost benefit analysis, it was observed that the proposed implementation study provided an ideal opportunity to undertake a thorough cost-benefit analysis, gathering the appropriate evidence to ensure the project best meets the nation's interest. In this context, evidence needed to be gathered from the perspective of the welfare of the wider community, and not just the interests of particular sectors. Much of this evidence could be analysed within a cost-benefit framework. This is an important tool in ensuring that governments make the best use of limited resources; it explicitly recognises the opportunity cost of investment. However, it is principally about determining the efficiency of various investment alternatives. The equity implications of the alternatives should also be considered separately to inform the final decision.

As the project does carry undiversifiable risks, the submission observed that the expected value of future benefits is positively correlated with the future state of the economy, and the project's implementation options should therefore be evaluated at a discount rate that incorporated an element to compensate for this risk, just as a private project would.

The submission concluded that, while the Productivity Commission has not undertaken any recent work in this area, earlier related research suggests a number of approaches which could potentially reduce the risks and costs of the NBN. In particular, the application of a thorough cost-benefit analysis would aid the implementation study during its detailed work, including its application to a pilot project in Tasmania. This submission also underlines the significance of issues to do with the structure of financing, appropriate pricing and access regulation and community service obligations, in determining overall outcomes from the NBN.

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Economics: Inquiry into Raising the Level of Productivity Growth in Australia

September 2009

The Commission's submission addressed a range of core issues, including the meaning and importance of productivity, how Australia's productivity has performed over time, and policies for improving our productivity performance into the future.

Key points of the submission were:

- Australia's rate of productivity growth will be a major determinant of future income growth, and of how well the country recovers from the global financial crisis and meets longer term challenges such as population ageing and climate change.
- The determinants of productivity growth operate at two broad levels:
 - immediate causes which, at the individual firm level, include innovation, the adoption or adaptation of technological and organisational advances and the achievement of economies of scale and scope
 - underlying drivers such as competition policy and an open economy, and more fundamental institutional arrangements.
- Over the past four decades, Australia's market sector multifactor productivity (MFP) growth has averaged 1.1 per cent per year. This places us in about the middle of the OECD rankings over the long term.
- Concerns about declining productivity growth and per capita income growth in the early 1980s gave impetus to the significant economic reforms which were implemented from the mid-1980s.
 - Subsequently, during the 1993-94 to 1998-99 productivity cycle, average annual MFP growth surged to 2.3 per cent. Australia's productivity performance rose to second among key OECD countries at this time.
- The fact that MFP growth has declined since 1998-99 is not unexpected, but the extent of the decline is, especially since 2003-04.
- Commission analysis suggests that 70 per cent of the recent rapid decline since the cycle ending in 2003-04 is accounted for by specific developments in three sectors:

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- Mining, with declining resource quality and large capital investment that has not yet translated into output; Electricity, gas & water, with capital investment and reduced rainfall; and Agriculture, with the drought.
 - Though important in the long run, factors which are unlikely to have played an immediate and direct role in the recent decline are expenditure on infrastructure, education and training, or R&D.
 - To raise the rate of productivity growth, a broad-based reform program is required which:
 - removes impediments to the efficient allocation of resources across the economy
 - heightens the incentives for firms to perform, while helping to enhance their organisational flexibility and capability.
 - The National Reform Agenda provides an appropriate framework. While recognising the constrained fiscal environment in the short term, policy settings should be based on a commitment to an open and competitive economy, ongoing regulatory reform and efficient investment in human and physical capital.

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.

Modelling the Effects of the EU Common Agricultural Policy

Catherine Costa, Michelle Osborne, Xiao-guang Zhang, Pierre Boulanger and Patrick Jomini, December 2009

This report was part of a project that was conducted in collaboration between the Productivity Commission and the Groupe d'Economie Mondiale (GEM), where Patrick Jomini from the Productivity Commission was on secondment, and coauthor Pierre Boulanger is a research and teaching fellow.

Key points were:

- The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Union has undergone significant reform since the early 1990s, with the aim of improving its market orientation.
 - There is an increasing focus on breaking the link between direct income payments and production decisions — so called ‘decoupling’.

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- Expenditure on the CAP accounts for about 46 per cent of total EU budgetary expenditure, or over 50 billion Euros.
 - The majority of expenditure is in the form of direct income payments to farmers. Expenditure also includes market price support and rural development programs.
 - The European Union also assists its agricultural sector with various border protection measures including import duties and other non-tariff barriers.
 - In this study, economic impacts of the CAP are evaluated using the GTAP model. According to the modelling results, the effects of the CAP include:
 - higher output of the farm and food processing sectors in the European Union, of about 8 and 6 per cent respectively
 - lower output of the EU manufacturing and services sectors
 - lower GDP in the European Union of about 0.3 per cent, or \$US 52 billion.
 - The additional farm and food output in the European Union is estimated to depress world prices for these goods by between 1 and 4 per cent. World prices for manufactured goods and services increase. These price movements induce a contraction in agriculture and food processing in non-EU regions, and an expansion in the manufacturing and services sectors.
 - Some of the largest contractions occur in the livestock sectors in Latin America (12.7 per cent) and Australia–New Zealand (4.9 per cent) and in the food processing sectors in most regions.
 - The estimated net effect of the CAP is to reduce global welfare by about \$US 45 billion, with a cost to the European Union of \$US 30 billion. The largest contributor to this welfare loss is the border protection component of the CAP.
 - Important caveats to these modelling results apply. The estimates are sensitive to parameter choices, specific model features, and the structure of the database. In addition, the modelling does not capture some aspects of the CAP including the effects of cross-compliance measures, any impacts on productivity in the agricultural sector, and positive and negative externalities associated with the policy. Therefore, these results should be interpreted as only indicative of the magnitude of the economic impacts of the CAP.

The Effects of Education and Health on Wages and Productivity

Matthew Forbes, Andrew Barker and Stewart Turner, March 2010

In this paper, a human capital earnings function and data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey were used to estimate

the effects of education and health status on wages, which can be used as an indicator of labour productivity.

Key points of the paper were:

- Human capital theory supports the view that people with higher levels of education and lower incidences of chronic illness should have higher labour productivity.
- Hourly wages can be used as an indicator of labour productivity. While wages are likely to be a reasonable indicator of the effects of education on labour productivity, statistical issues and the way that labour markets function in practice mean that using wages as an indicator could lead to results that under- or overstate the negative effects of ill health on labour productivity.
- In this paper, higher levels of education are estimated to be associated with significantly higher wages. Compared to a person with a year 11 education or less, on average:
 - a man with a year 12 education earns around 13 per cent more, and a woman earns around 10 per cent more
 - a man with a diploma or certificate earns around 14 per cent more, and a woman earns around 11 per cent more
 - a university education adds around 40 per cent to men's and women's earnings.
- People in the workforce who suffer from chronic illnesses are estimated to earn slightly less than their healthy counterparts (between 1.0 per cent and 5.4 per cent less for a range of conditions).
 - It is possible that these results understate the impact of ill health on productivity, because of the impact that one person's illness can have on other employees.
 - It is also possible that 'endogeneity bias' and unobserved heterogeneity in the data lead to results that overstate the positive effects of education and good health on labour productivity.
- A second objective of this paper is to estimate the potential productivity of people who are not employed or not in the labour force. These people tend to have characteristics that are systematically different to people who are employed. For example, they tend to have less education and work experience, and also to be in worse health. Because of this, they are more likely to be targeted by government programs.
 - Comparison of the characteristics of people in employment with those not in employment found that, depending on their age, gender and whether they

receive the Disability Support Pension, the average potential wage of people who are not employed or not in the labour force is between 65 and 75 per cent of the wage of people who are employed.

Developing a Partial Equilibrium Model of an Urban Water System

Andrew Barker, Tim Murray and John Salerian, March 2010.

Urban water and its management have been the subject of much public debate. The timing and choice of investments to augment water supply, different approaches to water pricing, and the tools of demand management have all been the subject of discussion. Outlined in this paper is a model that can be used to quantify the costs and benefits of policy options to improve outcomes in urban water systems. An earlier version of the paper was presented at the Australian Conference of Economists on 30 September 2009, and was awarded the prize for best contributed paper.

Key points of the paper were:

- A partial equilibrium model of an urban water system is employed to investigate capacity augmentation decisions, pricing policies and the use of water restrictions in the urban water sector.
- The modelling is based on the solution to a constrained optimisation problem, with the objective to maximise community welfare in the urban water market. The model allows for intertemporal representation of demand and supply; variation in annual inflows to dams; various supply options; and scope to apply policy constraints.
- The model abstracts from the transaction costs of different policies, institutional settings and incentives. Such considerations could in practice have a significant bearing on outcomes and optimal policies.
- To illustrate its use, the model is applied to a hypothetical city, which synthesizes features of Australian capital cities. The results therefore are illustrative only, and cannot be used as a template for assessing actual investment and policies.
 - Several possible new supply sources are considered: desalination; groundwater aquifers; household tanks; new dams; and rural–urban trade.
- The model reinforces the importance of rainfall variability and of making investment decisions regarding new supply sources based on expected returns to investment.

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- Actual payoffs to investment depend on future inflows to dams, as prices respond to demand, supply and storages. If future rainfall is plentiful (scarce), returns to investment are likely to be low (high).
 - Guaranteed investment returns lead to inefficient investment and consumption.
 - The amount of water drawn from new investments should be flexible and respond to rainfall patterns (via their impact on water prices).
 - Pricing based on the relative scarcity of water was the optimised ‘base case’ against which a range of illustrative policy applications were evaluated.
 - Constraining prices (including through long-run marginal cost pricing) was found in the model to impose costs on the community. Constrained prices are also likely to require restrictions to ration water during times of scarcity because prices are not able to perform a ‘rationing’ function.
 - The modelling shows large economic costs from imposing water restrictions, which prevent uses of water that consumers would have been willing to pay for. These costs rise as demand becomes less responsive to price or if inflows to dams become lower in the future.
 - A key feature of scarcity-based pricing is the variability in the price of water over time, depending on rainfall. On average, however, prices are lower under scarcity-based pricing than under the other policy options modelled.
 - Model results also indicate potentially high costs from ruling out access to particular sources of water (for example, relatively low-cost rural–urban trade using pipelines), or from pursuing supply options that are not least cost.
 - Potential further work using this modelling framework could include its application to specific urban settings.

Table E.1 Speeches and presentations by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff, 2009-10

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Gary Banks, Chairman:		
Reconciliation Australia, Closing the Gap Lecture, Canberra	Launch of Commission's <i>Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage</i> Report 2009	July 2009
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Canberra	Governing through the recession	Aug 2009
ABARE Leadership Forum, Canberra	Evidence-based policy making	Aug 2009
ANZSOG Annual Conference, Canberra	Sustaining evidence-based policy in a crisis	Sept 2009
CEDA Forum, Melbourne	Executive remuneration in Australia	Oct 2009
Economics Society Seminar, Canberra	Executive pay: economic issues from the Commission's report	Oct 2009
Guerdon Associates Breakfast forum, Melbourne	Executive remuneration in Australia	Oct 2009
Economic and Social Outlook Conference 2009, Melbourne	Restoring Australia's productivity growth	Nov 2009
Governing the Economy Symposium, Whitlam Institute, Sydney	Markets: how free?	Nov 2009
Melbourne Business School Policy Course, Melbourne	Leading Policy Reform: industry policy and regulation	March 2010
Official Statistics Forum 2010, Wellington, New Zealand	Statistics, Productivity and Structural Reform	March 2010
Ian Little Lecture, Melbourne	Advancing the Human Capital Agenda	April 2010
Talking Heads, Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Canberra	Evidence-based policy making: challenges and rewards	May 2010
COAG Road Reform Plan Workshop, Hobart (with Lisa Gropp)	Setting the scene for road reform	June 2010
CEDA State of the Nation, Canberra	Australia's productivity agenda	June 2010

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Commissioners:		
CEDA National Innovation Forum, Sydney, (Mike Woods)	Innovation — Key driver for sustainable economic growth	July 2009
University of Queensland Business School Executive Education Course, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	Leadership for the Not for Profit Sector and the findings of Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	July 2009
Benevolent Society CEO's forum, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	July 2009
CEDA Age Care Forum, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Changing trends in the aged care industry and challenges posed by increasing demand and growing diversity	Aug 2009
CSA Annual Public Sector Update, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Government Trading Enterprises — a stable model of governance?	Aug 2009
NSW Business Chamber, Sydney (Angela MacRae)	Reducing burdens on business — Commonwealth track record	Sept 2009
Australian Institute of Company Directors, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Oct 2009
ACSA of NSW & ACT Annual General Meeting, Sydney (Mike Woods)	Commission's research on Ageing	Oct 2009
Australian Society of Association Executives Symposium, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Not for Profit Sector	Oct 2009
Asia Oceania Soap & Detergent Associations Conference and ACCORD National Conference, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Insights into the Commission's reports on Chemicals & Plastics regulation and Anti-dumping	Oct 2009
Mercer Luncheon , Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's report on executive remuneration	Oct 2009
Financial Institutions Remuneration Group Conference, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's report on executive remuneration	Oct 2009
KPMG Remuneration Reform Conference, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's report on executive remuneration	Oct 2009
3 rd Annual Permit and Project Approval Conference, Tonkin Corporation, Perth (Philip Weickhardt)	Commission's report on the Review of Regulatory Burdens on the Upstream petroleum (Oil and Gas) Sector	Oct 2009

St Vincent De Paul Society Managers' Conference, Bowral (Robert Fitzgerald)	Challenges for Charities Today — discussion on the findings of the Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Oct 2009
National Heads of Churches in Australia, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Nov 2009
Australian Communications Consumer Action Network Seminar, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Responsive regulation and policy	Nov 2009
Economic and Social Outlook Conference 2009, Melbourne (Judith Sloan)	Fair work Australia, jobs and productivity	Nov 2009
Economic and Social Outlook Conference 2009, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	The future of the bush: the outlook for regional Australia	Nov 2009
Economic and Social Outlook Conference 2009, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Closing the Gap for Indigenous Australians	Nov 2009
ACOSS future of the Sector Day, Sydney (Dennis Trewin)	Commission's draft report into the Not for Profit Sector	Nov 2009
Australian Hospitals and Healthcare Association, Sydney (David Kalisch)	Structural challenges arising from Australia's mixed public-private healthcare system	Nov 2009
ANU, Canberra (David Kalisch)	Discussion on Health Services	Nov 2009
ANU Health Reform Series, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Discussion on the health workforce, access to primary health care services, governance and funding	Nov 2009
VCOSS meeting of CEO's and Presidents of Victorian community sector, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Nov 2009
Family Relationship Services Australia Conference, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Nov 2009
Catholic Healthcare Limited, Mission Twilight, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Nov 2009
ACSA of NSW & ACT 2009 Northern Regional Conference, Coffs Harbour (Mike Woods)	Visions with Action	Nov 2009
Horse Racing and Sports Betting Forum, Informa Australia, Sydney (Louise Sylvan)	Commission's Inquiry into Gambling	Dec 2009

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
NZICA Public Sector Conference, (by video stream) (Mike Woods)	Driving change in public sector financial management — Private Sector Perspective	Dec 2009
Anglicare Australia Community Sector Industry Issues Forum, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Feb 2010
National Compact Sector Advisory Group, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Feb 2010
Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility Conference, Melbourne (Louise Sylvan)	Markets, Regulation and Responsive Business Practice	Feb 2010
South Australian Anglicare Future of the Third Sector Conference, Adelaide (Robert Fitzgerald)	Discussion of the Not for Profit Sector and the Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	Feb 2010
Aged & Community Services Association of SA & NT Inc Finance Forum, Adelaide (Angela MacRae)	Managing Change in Aged Care — Regulatory Burdens on Business	Feb 2010
House with No Steps Board, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Discussion of the Not for Profit Sector and the Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
2010 Samaritans Business Breakfast , Newcastle (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
CHOICE National Consumer Congress, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Getting Policy Development Right	March 2010
ACWA Board Meeting, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
NSW Australian Society of Association Executives, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
FRSA Senior Executives Forum, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Proven, Possible, Probable: Shaping the Future of Australian Family Services	March 2010
Launch of Community Southwest's — Collaboration — Doing it Better 2020 Conference, Warnambool (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
Marrickville Council presentation, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
KPMG, Melbourne (David Kalisch)	Hospital performance	April 2010

Public Health Association Conference on Food Future, Canberra (David Kalisch)	The impact of food regulation	April 2010
QLD Mental Health Alliance, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	April 2010
Graduate School of Government Guest Speaker Program, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Policy in Practice: Delivering Public Value – how should we evaluate policy outcomes?	April 2010
2010 Family Violence Prevention Legal Service National Conference, Perth (Robert Fitzgerald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage	May 2010
WA Department of Indigenous Affairs Lunchtime Forum, Perth (Robert Fitzgerald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage	May 2010
CPA Australian 2010 Not for Profit Conference, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	A new not-for-profit era — where to from here? Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	May 2010
CPA Australian 2010 Not for Profit Conference, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	A new not-for-profit era — where to from here? Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	May 2010
CPA Australian 2010 Not for Profit Conference, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	A new not-for-profit era — where to from here? Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	May 2010
Australian College of Health Service Executives Conference, Sydney (David Kalisch)	Comparative hospital performance	May 2010
Cooperative Research Centre Association Annual Conference, Alice Springs (David Kalisch)	Evidence or anecdote: which has the most influence?	May 2010
ACSA National Community Care Conference and Trade Exhibition, Gold Coast (Mike Woods)	Reforming Aged Care: contributing to the Commission's inquiry	June 2010
Australasian Reporting Awards Annual Seminar, Sydney (Robert Fitzgerald)	Impressions matter but Impacts matter more — what stakeholders really value.	June 2010
Australian Red Cross — Emerging Executives Development Program, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Future of challenges of not for profit	June 2010
ACE Disability Employment Services Conference, Hobart	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	June 2010
National Quality Council, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Education and Training Workforce: Vocational Education and Training Issues paper	June 2010

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
ASAC Victoria Congress, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Aged care at the crossroads	June 2010
Treasury Planning Day, Canberra (Angela MacRae)	Work/life balance — the big and small picture	June 2010
Staff:		
ACT Treasury Seminar Series, Canberra (Troy Podbury)	Part time employment: the Australian experience	July 2009
NSW Office of Women's Policy — Women's Network Peak Forum, Sydney (Jenny Gordon)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	July 2009
Catholic Health Australia Conference on Indigenous Health, Hobart (Peter Daniel)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: key indicators 2009	Aug 2009
ABS Statistical Leadership Seminar, Canberra (Terry O'Brien)	Strengthening Evidence-based Policy in the Australian Federation	Aug 2009
Criterion Conference on Linking Policy with Service Delivery in Indigenous Communities, Cairns (Lawrence McDonald)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: key indicators 2009	Aug 2009
Evidence and Evaluation Conference, Canberra (Terry O'Brien)	Strengthening evidence-based policy: some helpful principles and institutional arrangements	Sept 2009
Australian Conference of Economists, Adelaide (Andrew Barker)	Developing a partial equilibrium model of an urban water system	Sept 2009
Australian Conference of Economists, Adelaide (Anthony Shomos))	The links between literacy and numeracy skills and labour market outcomes	Sept 2009
Justice Colloquium — Behavioural Economics and Public Policy, Melbourne (Paul Belin & Stewart Turner)	Can behavioural economics help policy makers achieve given policy goals more effectively and be used to support particular policy goals	Oct 2009
Attorney-Generals' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Conference, Canberra (Tina Takagaki)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: key indicators 2009	Oct 2009
Criterion Conference on Evidence-based policy making 2009: laying the foundations for innovative and sustainable policy, Canberra (Terry O'Brien)	Helping evidence inform policy: the need for eclectic approaches	Oct 2009
LaTrobe University Seminar on Improving Australia's Gambling Policies, Melbourne (Ralph Lattimore)	Commission's inquiry into Gambling	Nov 2009

Research School of Humanities & the Arts — Trade and Investment Issues for the 21 st Century: Building an Agenda for Australia, Canberra (Patrick Laplagne)	Australian/Trans-Tasman mutual recognition framework: characteristics and comparison with the EU	Nov 2009
Economic Measurement Group Workshop 2009, Sydney (Don Brunker)	Some measurement (& interpretation) questions and Australia's productivity performance	Dec 2009
Koori Business Network, Melbourne (Tina Takagaki & Peter Daniel)	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: key indicators 2009	Dec 2009
Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet Bilateral Indigenous Consultation meeting, Hobart (Peter Daniel)	Strategies and trajectories for addressing Indigenous disadvantages	Feb 2010
IPAA National Roundtable Event, Adelaide (Lawrence McDonald)	Indigenous issues: are we setting sustainable future?	March 2010
ACOSS National Conference, Canberra (Jenny Gordon)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	March 2010
The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra (Tina Takagaki)	Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage and improving Indigenous wellbeing – different approaches with a similar goal?	April 2010
Community Sector Banking not-for-profit information night, Canberra (Jenny Gordon)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	April 2010
CEDA Boosting productivity – key to economic recovery and growth, Sydney (Don Brunker)	Selected aspects of Australia's multifactor productivity performance	April 2010
DFAT Trade Policy Course, Canberra (Owen Gabbitas)	Trade liberalisation: the Australian experience	April 2010
Early Childhood Data Sub Group, Melbourne (Lou Will)	Commission's study into Education and Training Workforce	May 2010
Melbourne University Masters Course — Not for profit organisations: current regulatory and governance issues, Melbourne (Jenny Gordon)	Commission's study into the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector	June 2010
International Input-Output Conference, Sydney (Paul Gretton)	Use of input-output tables in assessing national economic reform – Australian Productivity Commission experience	June 2010
Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, Victorian Division monthly seminar series, Melbourne (Paul Belin & Rick Baker)	Recovering environmental water in the Murray-Darling Basin	June 2010

Table E.2 International delegations and visitors, 2009-10

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date/location</i>
NZ Department of Building and Housing	Social housing performance indicators	July 09 (M)
Australian Ambassador to the OECD	Discuss mid-year consultations	July 09 (C)
Iraqi delegation	The Commission's role and activities	Aug 09 (C)
NZ Treasury	Discussion of New Zealand Productivity Commission	Aug 09 (M)
Officials from Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and representatives from ASEAN	The Commission's role and activities; trade liberalisation and structural reform in Australian.	Sept 09 (M)
China-Europe Public Administration Project (CEPA II)	The Commission's role and activities; microeconomic reform, its contributions and history in Australia	Sept 09 (C)
China Australia Governance Program working visit	Discuss economic and quantitative analysis; national competition policy; population ageing; economics impact of climate change; agriculture, rural incomes; energy and resources	Sep 09 (C)
Papua New Guinea National Research Institute Study Tour Group	The Commission's role and activities	Sept 09 (M)
US Embassy Canberra	Social infrastructure	Oct 09 (M)
Philippines delegation	The Commission's role and activities; infrastructure and international perspectives on infrastructure financing	Oct 09 (C)
Saudi delegation	Issues relevant to the recently established Performance Measurement Centre of Government Agencies	Nov 09 (M)
Canadian High Commission	Discuss red tape reduction; performance management and public sector governance	Nov 09 (C)
Indonesian delegation	The Commission's role and activities	Nov 09 (C)
OECD delegation	Discuss infrastructure	Nov 09 (C)
OECD Mission	The Commission's role and activities	Dec 09 (C)
Maria Barrados (President of the Canadian Public Service Commission) and Daphne Meredith (Chief Human Resource Officer, Treasury Board of Canada)	Public Service Reform in Australia and the role of Human Resource management in those reforms	Dec 09 (C)

China Ministry of Finance delegation	Methods of promoting national productivity; economic reforms; government financial assistance on promoting industry; productively or Commonwealth Grants used for fostering productivity	Dec 09 (C)
Cambodian delegation	The Commission's experience: establishment of a regulatory system in Cambodia	Feb 10 (C)
Canada-Australia Public Policy Initiative	Community partnerships; economic recovery and social policy/social innovation	Feb 10 (M)
His Excellency Mr Jose Luis Balmaceda (Chilean Ambassador to Australia) and Jovino Nova (President of the Senator of Chile)	Productivity and the regulations that govern productivity growth	Feb 10 (C)
Dr Frederico Sturzenegger (President of the Banco de la Ciuda) and Marissa Bandharangshi	Special visits program	Feb 10 (M)
International Media Visit — Pakistani Journalists	'Off the record discussion' on microeconomic reform; COAG Reform Agenda and various regulation benchmarking tasks	Feb 10 (C)
Profess Katsuhiko Shijo	Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition	Mar 10 (C/M)
Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development delegation	The Commission's role and activities; economic modelling in the Commission; how economic modelling assists in achieving the Commission's objectives	Mar 10 (C)
Her Excellency Madame Khemmani Pholsena (Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Laos People's Democratic Republic)	The Commission's role and activities	Mar 10 (M)
George Anderson, President (Forum of Federations, Canada)	Discuss fiscal federalism in Australia	Mar 10 (M)
Dr Simon Kennedy, Deputy Secretary (Privy Council Office, Government of Canada) and Robert Coleman, Counsellor (Commercial)	The Commission's role and activities	April 10 (M)
Dr Ekniti, Spokesman, Thai Ministry of Finance and Executive Director of the Ministry's Macro-Economic Policy Bureau	Strategies used by the Commission to inform policy makers on the motivators of economic reform	April 10 (C)
China-Australia Governance Program – China Central Party School Delegation	The Commission's role and activities; intergovernmental financial relations and governance structures	June 10 (C)

(C) Canberra (M) Melbourne