



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS**  
NEW INQUIRY: Raising the level of productivity growth in  
the Australian Economy

*Chair: Mr Craig Thomson MP*

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## **Inquiry into raising the level of productivity growth in the Australian Economy**

The House of Representatives Economics Committee will conduct a wide-ranging inquiry into the key factors influencing Australia's productivity growth rate.

The Chair of the House Economics Committee, Craig Thomson (Member for Dobell, NSW), said: "During the past 25 years, improvements in Australia's living standards can be attributed to increases in the level of productivity. However, Australia's productivity rate which made gains during the 1990s has now declined. The committee will examine the factors responsible for Australia's current lower rate of productivity growth."

The **terms of reference for the inquiry**, referred by the Treasurer Wayne Swan, require the committee to "inquire into, and report on, the key factors influencing Australia's productivity growth rate, focusing on but not limited to:

- a) trends in Australia's productivity growth rate during the past 20 years and reasons for the recent trending decline;
- b) trends in productivity growth rates against other OECD countries;
- c) the adequacy of productivity growth measures;
- d) the contribution made by microeconomic reform to the permanent improvement in the growth rate of productivity and the continuing effectiveness of the microeconomic reform agenda;
- e) the willingness and ability of small and medium enterprise to adopt best practice technology;
- f) the adequacy of the level of investment in physical capital;
- g) the adequacy of the level of investment in public infrastructure;
- h) the level of resources devoted to research and development;
- i) the adequacy of resources devoted to training and development of the labour force; and
- j) the key reforms and measures that can be undertaken to lift Australia's permanent rate of productivity growth.

In conducting the inquiry the committee should focus on how relevant factors contribute generally to the productivity growth rate. The committee should not undertake detailed assessments of individual industry sectors or specific industry assistance measures."

The committee is keen to receive submissions from a variety of sources, ranging from individuals and industry participants to academics, economists, representative bodies and government departments," Mr Thomson said. **The committee will accept submissions, preferably by email, until 21 August 2009.**

Further details about the inquiry, including how to make a submission, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4587 or emailing [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.au)

**For media comment:** please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Craig Thomson MP, on (02) 4351 1223 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4460 Parliament House.