



Can better management and new technology help Australia increase its lagging productivity?

The House Economics Committee will discuss Australia's productivity growth challenge with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and also with leading economist Professor Roy Green at a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow (25 February).

The committee, as part of its inquiry into raising Australia's productivity growth rate, is investigating ways to sustain and boost the national productivity growth rate given the official measure has been declining since 2003-04, in stark contrast to Australia's unprecedented productivity growth surge in the 1990s.

Professor Green, who is Dean of the Faculty of Business at Sydney's University of Technology, recently released a report, *Management Matters in Australia—Just how productive are we?*, that proposes "In a high wage economy with rapid technological change, an aging population and shortfalls in skills, better management practices are linked with increases in productivity and output". The committee is keen to discuss how management capabilities can improve firm level productivity and how improvements in this skill-set can be supported.

Committee Chair, **Craig Thomson, MP** said: "The committee is looking at not only the capacity of firms to improve productivity but also ways in which the capabilities in organisations can be bolstered".

The committee will also meet with the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy to discuss how the uptake of new generation information and communications technologies will affect firm level and aggregate productivity growth, and the future challenges for regulators in ensuring appropriate access to broadband and radio-spectrum.

The hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra on Thursday, 25 February 2010**. The hearing will be webcast live: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

The program is outlined below:

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| 9.40 am | The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy |
| 10.15 am | Professor Roy Green, University of Technology Sydney (via teleconference) |

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Craig Thomson MP, on (02) 4351 1223 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 4460 Parliament House. **Further information:** contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4209, email economics.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/economics>