



Input from industries on Australia's productivity growth

The House Economics Committee will discuss Australia's productivity growth challenge with representatives of the building and food and beverage manufacturing industries at a public hearing on Friday 30 October 2009 as part of an inquiry into raising the rate of productivity growth in the Australian economy.

The committee will also speak with representatives from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations about boosting workforce productivity, an area considered by the Productivity Commission, in its submission to the inquiry, 'to be in the more difficult terrain'.

The Australian Food and Grocery Council and Master Builders Australia will give their industry perspectives on Australia's productivity growth rate and considerations for the future. Dr George Barker, Director of the Australian National University's Centre for Law and Economics will also appear before the Committee to discuss their analysis of the key factors influencing Australia's productivity growth rate and the reasons for its recent trending decline.

The committee's inquiry will consider productivity growth trends in Australia and other OECD countries over the last 20 years; the adequacy of investment levels in physical capital and infrastructure; the level of resources devoted to human capital and research and development, and strategic reforms and measures that could be undertaken to lift Australia's productivity growth.

Committee Chair, **Craig Thomson, MP** said: "Australia's rate of productivity growth is vital for the future wellbeing of Australians. Productivity growth rates have been declining since 2003-04, less than a decade after Australia experienced unprecedented productivity growth in the 1990s. It is therefore timely to look at why this has happened and ways of lifting and sustaining future productivity growth."

The hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra on Friday 30 October**. The hearing will be webcast live on:

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>. The program is outlined below:

9.15 am	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
10.30 am	Australian Food and Grocery Council
11.15 am	Master Builders Australia
12.45 pm	Centre for Law and Economics, ANU
1.30 pm	Adjournment

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>