

**Public Hearing, Monday 2 December 2002, Canberra****Productivity Commission Chairman and Chief Scientist  
to appear at inquiry into business commitment to R&D**

The **Chief Scientist**, Dr Robin Batterham, and the Chairman of the **Productivity Commission**, Mr Gary Banks, will be among those appearing this Monday at a hearing of the House of Representatives Science and Innovation Committee's inquiry into business commitment to research and development (R&D) in Australia.

The inquiry is looking at the economic benefits for Australia of a greater private sector investment in R&D, the impediments to business investment in R&D, and the steps that need to be taken to better demonstrate to business the benefits of higher private sector investment in R&D.

The **Chief Scientist** is the Executive Officer of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, and a member of the Commonwealth-State Innovation Advisory Council and the Cooperative Research Centres' Committee. Dr Batterham, who was appointed to the position in May 1999, is taking a lead role in establishing national research priorities and promoting linkages between science, industry and government.

The **Productivity Commission** is the Commonwealth's principal review and advisory body on microeconomic policy and regulation. The Commission has published numerous studies on the impact of business assistance programs.

The Committee will also be hearing from the **Industry, Research and Development Board**, which administers the Commonwealth's R&D support programs. In 2002-03, the Board will administer programs providing a total of \$682.4 million in assistance to some 5,250 Australian businesses. Others scheduled to give evidence include the **Australian Information Industry Association**, the peak body representing suppliers of ICT goods and services, and **Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA)**. AFFA oversees the operation of the rural Research and Development Corporations.

**PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM****Morning - Monday 2 December 2002, Main Committee Room, Parliament House**

9.00 – 10.00am	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
10.00 – 11.00am	Australian Information Industry Association
11.00 – 12.00pm	Flavourtech
12.00 – 1.00pm	The Chief Scientist (Dr Robin Batterham)

**Afternoon – Monday 2 December 2002, Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House**

4.45 – 5.30pm	Productivity Commission (Mr Gary Banks)
5.30 – 6.30pm	The Industry, Research and Development Board

**For media comment, please contact the Chair of the Science and Innovation Committee, Mr Gary Nairn MP, on (02) 6277 4939 or (02) 6297 3952**

For further information on the hearings, please contact Shelley McInnis, Inquiry Secretary on (02) 6277 2324 or via email at [Shelley.McInnis.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Shelley.McInnis.Reps@aph.gov.au)

For further information on the inquiry, **including copies of submissions**, visit the inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/randd/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/randd/index.htm)