

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 911**

**Topic: Commissioned Reports (PC)**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

911. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio this financial year to date?

Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- a) How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- b) What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

**Answer:**

911. Since 30 June 2011, the Government has commissioned 7 new projects:

- a 12 month study on *Business Regulation Benchmarking: Role of Local Government as Regulator* (reference received 4 July 2011);
- a 9 month inquiry into *Australia's Export Credit Arrangements* (reference received on 1 September 2011);
- a 12 month inquiry into *Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation* (reference received on 20 September 2011);
- a 15 month inquiry on *Electricity Network Regulation* (reference received on 9 January 2012);
- a 9 month study (conducted jointly with the New Zealand Productivity Commission) on *Australia and New Zealand Economic Relations* (reference received 29 January 2012);
- a 8 month inquiry into *Default Superannuation Funds* (reference received 6 February 2012); and
- a 9 month study on *Regulatory Impact Analysis: Benchmarking* (reference received 28 February 2012).

Full details on these projects are provided on the Commission's website at:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects>

- (a) Information on the estimated costs of these projects is not available at this time.

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Information on staff involved in these projects is shown in table 1.

**Table 1 Staffing of public inquiries and other commissioned projects commenced FYTD 2011-12**

<i>Government-commissioned project</i>	<i>Staffing</i>
Business Regulation Benchmarking: Role of Local Government as Regulator	1 SES, 4 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, APS1
Australia's Export Credit Arrangements	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 3 APS2, 1 APS1
Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 4 APS2, 1 APS1
Electricity Network Regulation	1 SES, 3 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 2 APS1
Australia New Zealand Economic Relations	1 SES, 3 APS4, 1 APS2, 1 APS1
Default Superannuation Funds	1 SES, 1 APS4, 3 APS3, 2 APS2, 1 APS1
Regulatory Impact Analysis: Benchmarking	1 SES, 2 APS4, 2 APS3, 1 APS2, 2 APS1

- (b) The projects are ongoing with the exception of 9 month inquiry into Australia's Export Credit Arrangements. This report was provided to Government on 31 May 2012.

Information on the timing of draft and final reports is available on the Commission's website.

The Commission does not have information on the proposed timing of Government responses to its reports.