

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Question No: 73

Topic: Advisory or working groups

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Please provide details of advisory or working groups within the agency.

- 1) Who is on each advisory or working group
- 2) What support is being provided by the agency
- 3) What is the expenditure to date of the advisory or working group
- 4) What reporting mechanisms to the agency executive or the Minister exists

Answer:

The ACCC has eight consultative committees, details of membership, support provided, expenditure and reporting mechanisms are set out below:

1. Agriculture Consultative Committee

Membership

1. Australian Chicken Meat Federation – Vivien Kite
2. Australian Dairy Farmers – David Losberg
3. Australian Food and Grocery Council – Tanya Barden
4. Australian Lot Feeder's Association – Jim Cudmore
5. Australian Meat Industry Council – Stephen Martyn
6. Australian Pork Limited – Deb Kerr
7. Ausveg – Jordan Brooke-Barnett
8. Canegrowers – Warren Males
9. Cattle Council of Australia – Jed Matz
10. Cotton Australia – Adam Kay
11. Freshmark – Bill Chalk
12. Grain Growers – David McKeon
13. Grain Producers Australia – Daniel Coopers
14. Grain Trade Australia - Pat O'Shannassy
15. Growcom – Pat Hannan
16. National Farmers' Federation – Tony Mahar
17. NSW Farmers – Fiona Simson
18. Primary Producers South Australia – Trevor Ranford
19. Sheep Meat Council – Dr Kathleen Giles
20. Tasmanian Farmers' and Graziers' Association – Peter Skillern
21. Voice of Horticulture and Citrus Australia – Tania Chapman
22. WA Farmers – Dale Park
23. Wine Grape Growers Association – Ben Rose

24. Individual - Adam Jenkins (President of United Dairyfarmers of Victoria)

25. Individual - Jan Davis (agricultural consultant)

Support provided by the ACCC

ACCC Commissioner, Mick Keogh is chair of the Agriculture Consultative Committee (ACC). The ACCC provides secretariat duties to the ACC, including considering member appointments and arranging meetings.

Expenditure to date

The ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation in the ACC, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

The ACCC's secretariat provides a copy of the minutes from each meeting to the ACC members, external attendees, ACCC participants as well as the ACCC Agriculture Unit Board.

2. Consumer Consultative Committee

Membership

1. Adult Multicultural Education Service
2. Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
3. Australian Council on the Ageing
4. Brotherhood of St Laurence
5. CHOICE
6. Consumer Action Law Centre
7. Consumers Health Forum
8. Financial Counselling Australia
9. Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network
10. Public Interest Advocacy Centre
11. Youth Action

Support provided by the ACCC

ACCC Deputy Chair, Delia Rickard is co-chair of the Consumer Consultative Committee (CCC). The ACCC provides secretariat support to the CCC including organising and convening meetings, reviewing membership, facilitating inter-agency liaison and stakeholder management, financial governance, liaising with members who refer matters to the ACCC and tracking the progress of matters referred from member organisations.

The ACCC also undertakes research and briefings from time to time, including by undertaking joint projects. The ACCC provides financial and administrative support for special events organised with input from the CCC, such as Consumer Congress and the Ruby Hutchinson Memorial Lecture and will often consult with members of the CCC on education and research projects.

Expenditure to date

As at 31 October 2016 the ACCC expense for the CCC was nil. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

High level updates on the activities of the CCC is provided in the ACCC's Annual Report, ACCCount quarterly report and the ACCC's internal divisional quarterly report. Updates are also provided to the ACCC's internal Enforcement and Strategic Compliance Committee on special projects undertaken jointly or with the input of the CCC as required.

3. Fuel Consultative Committee

Membership

1. Australasian Convenience & Petroleum Marketers Association
2. Australian Automobile Association
3. Australian Institute of Petroleum
4. Biofuels Association of Australia
5. BP Australia
6. Caltex Australia
7. Coles Express
8. ExxonMobil Australia
9. National Roads and Motorists' Association (NRMA)
10. Puma Energy
11. Royal Automobile Association of South Australia (RAA)
12. Royal Automobile Club of Queensland (RACQ)
13. Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT)
14. Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV)
15. Service Stations Association
16. 7 Eleven
17. Viva Energy
18. Woolworths

Support provided by the ACCC

Half-yearly FCC meetings are chaired by the ACCC Chairman, with attendance by relevant senior executives and staff. A meeting venue is provided by the ACCC Melbourne office. ACCC staff provide secretariat support for the meetings and liaison with participants through the year as needed.

Expenditure to date

The ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation in the FCC, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

A summary note from each half-yearly meeting is prepared by ACCC staff, circulated for stakeholder comment, and distributed to the FCC participating organisations. Relevant issues arising from the half-yearly meetings are followed up by staff, and may be reported internally to the ACCC Fuel Steering Group where appropriate.

4. Infrastructure Consultative Committee

Membership

As at 30 October 2016, the participation list for the Infrastructure Consultative Committee (ICC) included:

1. Australia Pipelines & Gas Association - Cheryl Cartwright
2. Australian Airports Association - Caroline Wilkie
3. Australian Communications Consumer Action Network - Teresa Corbin
4. Australian Logistics Council - Michael Kilgariff
5. Australian Railway Track Corporation - Jonathon Teubner
6. Australasian Railway Association - Phil Allan
7. Board of Airlines Representative of Australia - Barry Abrams
8. Communications Alliance - John Stanton
9. Competitive Carriers Coalition - Matt Healy
10. Energy Networks Association - Garth Crawford
11. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia - Brendan Lyon
12. National Irrigators Council - Tom Chesson
13. NBN Co - Caroline Lovell
14. Optus - Andrew Sheridan
15. Ports Australia - David Anderson
16. Telstra - Jane van Beelen
17. Water Services Association of Australia - Adam Lovell

Support provided by ACCC

The ACCC provides participants with a meeting venue and videoconferencing facilities at its offices. ACCC staff provide secretariat support for the meetings and liaison with participants through the year as needed. The ICC is chaired by either the ACCC's Chairman Rod Sims, the Australian Energy Regulator's Chair Paula Conboy or senior representatives.

Expenditure to date

As membership with the ICC is voluntary and the ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

ACCC staff provide updates of the ICC meetings at its internal Commission meeting.

5. Small Business & Franchising Consultative Committee

The ACCC previously hosted two bodies relevant to the small business sector – a Small Business Consultative Committee and a Franchising Consultative Committee. In January 2016 it was announced that these committees were amalgamated into the Small Business & Franchising Consultative Committee (SBFCC) to streamline engagement with the two sectors.

Membership

1. Australasian Association of Convenience Stores – Jeff Rogut
2. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Stephen Ferguson
3. Australian Lottery and Newsagents' Federation – Ben Kearney
4. Australian Retailers Association – Russell Zimmerman
5. Business Incubation and Innovation Australia – Phillip Kemp
6. Council of Small Businesses of Australia – Paul Nielsen
7. Curtin Business School – Dr Paull Weber
8. Franchise Advisory Centre – Jason Gehrke
9. Franchise Council of Australia – Damian Paull
10. Franchise Relationships Institute – Greg Nathan
11. Franchisee Association of Australia – The Hon. David Beddall
12. Franchisee Success – Elizabeth Gillam
13. FRANdata – Darryn McAuliffe
14. Independent Contractors of Australia – Ken Phillips
15. Institute of Public Accountants – Andrew Conway
16. Law Council of Australia – Jon Clarke
17. Master Builders Australia – Dr Brent Davis
18. Master Grocers Australia – Jos de Bruin
19. McInnes Wilson Lawyers – Alicia Hill
20. Motor Trades Association of Australia – Richard Dudley
21. Real Estate Institute of Australia – Jock Kreitals
22. Restaurant & Catering Industry Association – Sally Neville
23. Tasmanian Small Business Council – Geoff Fader
24. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia – David Quilty
25. University of NSW Business School – Dr Jenny Buchan
26. University of Sydney – Professor Andrew Terry

Support provided by the ACCC

ACCC Deputy Chair Michael Schaper chairs the SBFCC. The ACCC provides secretariat services to the Committee and hosts meetings at our offices.

Expenditure to date

The ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation in the SBFCC, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

ACCC staff consult with the Deputy Chair on membership selection and appointments to the Committee are endorsed by the Commission. Outcomes from the biannual meetings are discussed with ACCC senior executives at meetings of the Commission and/or Enforcement Committee – Strategic Compliance.

6. ACCC Performance Consultative Committee

Membership

1. Gerard Brody, Consumer Action Law Centre
2. Gina Cass-Gottlieb, Gilbert + Tobin
3. Kate Carnell, Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
4. Caroline Coops, Competition and Consumer Committee of the Law Council of Australia
5. Teresa Corbin, Australian Communications Consumer and Action Network
6. Jason Gehrke, Franchise Council of Australia
7. Richard Goyder, Wesfarmers
8. Matt Healy, Competitive Carriers Coalition
9. Robert Montgomery, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia
10. James Pearson, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11. Peter Strong, Council of Small Business of Australia
12. Tony Warren, Telstra
13. Jennifer Westacott, Business Council of Australia
14. Innes Willox, Australian Industry Group
15. Russell Zimmerman, Australian Retailers Association

Support provided by ACCC

The ACCC provides secretariat support to the APCC. Specifically, the ACCC arranges and hosts meetings of the APCC at our offices.

Expenditure to date

There has been no direct expenditure on, or by, the APCC to date. Membership of the APCC is voluntary and unpaid. APCC members attend meetings via the ACCC's videoconferencing facilities in each capital city, so no interstate travel is required.

Reporting mechanisms

Staff consult with the ACCC's Commission throughout the development of the self-assessment report. The Commission must approve the self-assessment report prior to publication, taking into account the feedback of the APCC on our provisional self-assessment results.

The ACCC is required to provide our responsible Minister, the Treasurer, with a copy of the final self-assessment report. The ACCC must provide the Treasurer with a summary of the feedback received from the APCC and how the ACCC has addressed it. The ACCC must also publish the report on our website.

7. Utility Regulators Forum

Membership

1. Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
2. Australian Energy Market Commission
3. Australian Energy Regulator
4. Commerce Commission New Zealand
5. Economic Regulation Authority (WA)
6. Electricity Authority NZ
7. Essential Services Commission (Victoria)
8. Essential Services Commission of South Australia
9. Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ACT)
10. National Competition Council
11. NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
12. Queensland Competition Authority
13. Queensland Productivity Commission
14. Tasmanian Economic Regulator
15. Utilities Commission Northern Territory

Support provided by the ACCC

ACCC Commissioner Cristina Cifuentes chairs meetings of the URF. The ACCC provides secretariat services to the URF and publishes a periodical newsletter on its behalf.

Expenditure to date

The ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation in the URF, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

A summary note from each half-yearly meeting is prepared by ACCC staff and distributed to the URF participating organisations. Relevant issues arising from the half-yearly meetings are followed up by staff, and are reported internally to the ACCC Committees where appropriate.

8. Wholesale Telecommunications Consultative Forum

Membership

1. Australian Communications Consumer Action Network
2. Australian Communications and Media Authority
3. Australian Department of Communications and the Arts
4. Competitive Carriers' Coalition
5. Foxtel

6. Independent Telecommunications' Adjudicator
7. Macquarie Telecom
8. NBN Co
9. Singtel Optus
10. Telstra
11. TPG/AAPT

Support provided by the ACCC

ACCC Executive General Manager Michael Cosgrave chairs meetings of the Wholesale Telecommunications Consultative Forum (WTCF). The ACCC provides secretariat support to the WTCF, arranging and hosting meetings at the ACCC's offices.

Expenditure to date

The ACCC does not pay sitting fees or reimburse travel costs for participation in the WTCF, with members required to meet their own expenses. The preparation of internal administrative costs, such as staffing costs for the Committee would cause an unreasonable diversion of the ACCC's resources.

Reporting mechanisms

References to the WTCF may be included in the ACCC-AER Annual Report, as the forum discusses issues relating to Telstra's Structural Separation Undertaking (SSU). Issues raised by the forum may be detailed in the ACCC's SSU annual report which is provided annually to the Minister for Communications.