

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

**Question: AET 643-650**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Written: 5 March 2014**

**Senator LUDWIG asked:**

643. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
- the date they were ordered
  - the date they commenced
  - the minister responsible
  - the department responsible
  - the nature of the review
  - their terms of reference
  - the scope of the review
  - Whom is conducting the review
  - the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
  - the expected report date
  - the budgeted, projected or expected costs
  - If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
644. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
- If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
  - If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
  - If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
  - If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
  - If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
  - If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
  - If yes, for each, who selected them
  - If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
  - If yes, please detail what involvement it was
    - If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
    - If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
    - If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
    - If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
645. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?
- Please list them.
  - What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

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646. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
647. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
648. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
649. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
650. What reviews are planned?
- When will each planned review be commenced?
  - When will each of these reviews be concluded?
  - When will government respond to each review?
  - Will the government release each review?
    - If so, when?
    - If not, why not?

#### Answer:

As at 5 March 2014:

643. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 there have been no new Productivity Commission reviews commenced.
644. See response to preceding question.
645. a). The Commission currently has five ongoing reviews:
- inquiries into Australia's automotive manufacturing industry; public infrastructure; childcare and early childhood learning; and access to justice;
  - a commissioned research study of geographical labour mobility.
- b). These reviews are ongoing and, where available, final resourcing costs will be reported in the Commission's 2013-14 Annual Report.
646. No reviews have been stopped, paused or ceased.
647. Since November 2013 the Commission has concluded one review, on Major Project Development Assessment processes. This was provided to Government on 29 November 2013.
648. See response to preceding question.
649. The Commission does not have information on the timing of Government responses to its reports.
650. Future review planning is decided by the Government.