

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 272

Topic: Additional regulations

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Eggleston asked:

Given the increase in levels of regulation, how has the Productivity Commission been working through the thousands of additional regulations and are they working to reduce the level of red tape?

Answer:

Since the OBPR was moved to the Department of Finance and Deregulation at the end of 2007, the Commission has not had a systematic vetting or monitoring role in respect of new regulation. Moreover, the Commission has not been requested to examine all new regulation in its own right. However, it continues to examine specific areas of regulation referred to it, such as the *Review of Regulatory Burden on the Upstream Petroleum (Oil and Gas) Sector* completed in 2009. It also has ongoing streams of work designed to reduce the volume and improve the cost-efficiency of regulation via its work on Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation and the Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business. Reports from these studies are available on the Commission's web-site.