

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome 1, Program 1.1

Topic: BRCWG

Question reference number: F68

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 26 March 2010

Number of Pages: 1

Senator Ronaldson asked:

Outline the progress that has been made in each of the further 12 areas identified as existing 'hotspots' and new areas of reform where the BRCWG recommended there should be early action. These areas included;

- a) Environmental assessment and approvals bilaterals,
- b) Payroll tax administration,
- c) Trade licences,
- d) A Health Workforce IGA,
- e) National trade measurement,
- f) Rail safety regulation reform,
- g) The consumer policy framework,
- h) Product safety,
- i) Trustee companies,
- j) Mortgage credit and advice,
- k) Margin lending,
- l) And non-deposit taking institutions.

Answer:

- a) – l)

On 27 November 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed the National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy. The agreement includes an implementation plan to progress the reforms.

On 23 February 2010 the COAG Reform Council released its report *National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy: Report on Performance 2008-09*. The report provides a summary of the status of progress of the reforms listed above as at 30 September 2009. Progress since 30 September 2009 in relation to all the reforms listed above is reported in the BRCWG Report Card released on 23 February 2010, which is available at www.coag.gov.au.