

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

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Type of Question: Written

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Senator Ronaldson asked:

The BRCWG was to report to COAG by the end of 2008 on new areas of competition reform, these included;

- Appropriate models for future regulation of national markets such as for water trading, the energy market, consumer policy and regulation affecting national workforce mobility,
 - Unfinished National Competition Policy business, and
 - Other new competition reforms.
- a) When did BRCWG report to COAG on these new areas of competition reform?
- b) And what is the status of these areas of competition reform?

Answer:

- a) 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 which covers 27 deregulation priorities, eight competition reforms and a continued commitment by all jurisdictions to regulatory reform. Details of individual reforms are set out in the implementation plan.
- b) 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, which was provided to COAG, provides a summary of the status of progress of the eight competition reforms in the Agreement as at 30 September 2009.