

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 11-14 February 2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Non-reward Payment reform

Senator: Senator Payne

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Question:

Senator PAYNE: But in relation to non-reward payment reforms—if I can put it like that—as I understand it, there are 22 of those and only seven of those are achieved or are on track, 11 have their time frame at risk and four have their output at risk, according to the CRC. So that is not actually an outstanding reflection of the responsiveness.

Mr Hazlehurst: I think some of those depend a little on how you actually count them. I am happy to take this question on notice and break it down for you. For example, in relation to some of the competition reforms, the CRC has chosen to break a number of those into in one case, I think, four sub reforms and is including those in those numbers that you just referred to.

Answer:

The National Partnership Agreement to Deliver a Seamless National Economy (SNE NP) outlines the following eight competition reform streams which are not tied to reward payments:

1. Anti-dumping and countervailing
2. Parallel import restriction on books
3. Energy market reforms
4. National access regime
5. Infrastructure reform
6. Rationalisation of occupational licences
7. National transport reforms
8. Road reform plan

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In December 2012, in its *Seamless National Economy: Report on performance 2011-12*, the COAG Reform Council (CRC) found that three of the eight competition reform streams were completed: anti-dumping and countervailing, parallel import restriction on books and rationalisation of occupational licences. A further competition reform stream — national access regime — has been completed since then.

The CRC also reports progress on the eight competition reform streams by breaking them down into 17 SNE sub-streams. Broken down this way, the CRC reported:

- six sub-streams have achieved their output;
- two sub-streams are on-track with no significant risks identified;
- seven sub-streams have their timeframe at risk; and
- two sub-streams have their output at risk.

The CRC also assessed progress for five competition reforms that are not part of the SNE NP, but which are included as non-reward payment reforms:

- Retail tenancy has achieved its output;
- Legal profession, Not-for-profit sector- fundraising and Not-for-profit sector - SCOA have their timeframe at risk; and
- Regulation making and review has its output at risk.

On 7 December 2012, COAG agreed a preliminary response to the CRC report and will consider a more detailed response to the CRC report in April 2013.