

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2008
Department of Finance and Deregulation
Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

Outcome 1, Output 1.2

Topic: Review carried out by the Department

Question reference number: F42

Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 88

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 11 July 2008



Number of Pages: 2

Senator Brandis asked:

What I would like, please—and I want you to interpret my question liberally, not pedantically—is for you to provide me, in writing, a list of all the reviews being carried out by the department at the moment or for which the department is providing a secretariat elsewhere in government or to whole-of-government reviews, and a short description of what is the task of each review. Would you do that for me please, Dr Watt?

Answer:

Review Title	Description	External Reviewer engaged	Reporting Date
Strategic Review of the Administration of Australian Government Grants Programs	The review will make recommendations for improving the framework for the administration of Australian Government grants and identify better practice in the administration of Australian Government grants.	Mr Peter Grant PSM (element 1) Dr Joanne Kelly (element 2)	Mid August 2008
Strategic Review of Climate Change Programs	The review is analysing existing Australian Government climate change related programs to assess whether the programs are efficient, effective, appropriate and complementary to an emissions trading scheme.	Mr Roger Wilkins AO	31 July 2008
Operation Sunlight – Murray Review	To conduct a review of budget transparency issues, including options to strengthen the Government's Operation Sunlight initiatives.	Senator Andrew Murray	30 June 2008

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Review of Australian Government use of ICT	The review will look at the potential for efficiencies and improved effectiveness from a whole-of-government approach to government use of information and communication technology (ICT).	Sir Peter Gershon	September 2008
Expenditure Review Taskforce	The Taskforce is co-ordinating the Government's examination of all areas of expenditure with a view to achieving savings and improving the overall quality of expenditure on government programs and activities	Internal taskforce	Ongoing reporting through 2008 and early 2009
Review of Government Property Management	The review will look at the potential for efficiencies and improved effectiveness from implementing a more strategic approach to government property management.	Internal Review	Mid 2008
Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy	The Government's election commitment was to revamp the policy. The Prime Minister has asked the Finance Minister in conjunction with the Minister for Housing to have the new arrangements in place by 30 June 2008.	Internal Review	30 June 2008

The information on the Gateway process is included as it describes a review process facilitated by Finance, not individual reviews.

Gateway Review Process (Gateway)

- The Department of Finance and Deregulation (Finance) Gateway Unit facilitates a program of Gateway Reviews that follow the Gateway methodology.
- Gateway is a confidential project assurance methodology that was developed in the United Kingdom by the Office of Government Commerce, the licensee of the methodology.
- Finance does not undertake the Reviews, which are conducted by independent Reviewers engaged by Finance. Finance facilitates the process, but does not provide a secretariat service.