
E Supporting research and related activities

The Commission's supporting research program encompasses a range of activities. This appendix provides brief summaries of Commission Research Papers, and Submissions, and Staff Working Papers released in the year. It also lists the presentations given by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff to parliamentary committees, conferences and industry and community groups in 2006-07, as well as briefings to international visitors.

Commission research papers

Potential benefits of the National Reform Agenda

February 2007

As part of its supporting research program, the Commission investigated the potential economic and fiscal impacts of the National Reform Agenda (NRA) as outlined in the COAG meeting Communiqué of 10 February 2006. The main purpose of the study was to help governments better understand the scale and distribution — including the State and Territory dimensions — of the anticipated broad economic and fiscal impacts of reform. (The study guidelines provided to the Commission by COAG Senior Officials excluded matters relating to climate change technology and adaptation.) The key points of the study were:

- The study assessed the potential maximum (outer-envelope) gains that could be achieved through COAG's NRA in the long run — assuming *full implementation* of the NRA, and *full adjustment* of the economy to the effects of reform.
- There was limited information on which to base such estimates and the results should be viewed as exploratory or, at best, broadly indicative.
- Because of inherent differences between the competition and regulatory reform streams and the human capital reform stream, it was not possible to aggregate results into a single measure of the 'impact of the NRA'.

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- That said, the NRA as a whole could be expected to significantly raise activity levels and incomes in all jurisdictions. The benefits would be additional to benefits from ‘ongoing’ reform programs.
 - Improving productivity and efficiency in *energy, transport, infrastructure* and other activities through the competition and regulatory reform streams could provide resource savings of around \$10 billion.
 - After a period of adjustment, GDP could be increased by nearly 2 per cent.
 - Governments’ combined net revenues could rise by up to around \$5 billion, with the distribution between governments varying across reform areas.
 - Achievement of a 5 per cent improvement in the productivity of *health service delivery* could equate to resource savings (or additional resources to spend on health care) of around \$3 billion.
 - After a period of adjustment, this would imply a potential increase of nearly \$4 billion in net revenues of Australian governments after 10 or more years.
 - Enhancement of *workforce participation and productivity* through the NRA stream directed at health promotion and disease prevention, education and work incentives could potentially result in increases in GDP of around 6 and 3 per cent, respectively, after 25 or more years.
 - However, the magnitude of prospective net gains in GDP, and in governments’ fiscal balances, would depend on the magnitude of costs incurred by governments in implementing specific reform programs.

Submissions

Productivity Commission Submission to the Prime Ministerial Task Group on Emissions Trading

March 2007

The Prime Ministerial Task Group on Emissions Trading was established in December 2006 and asked to report by 31 May 2007. Under the proviso that the competitive advantages Australia enjoys through its reserves of fossil fuels and uranium be preserved, the Task Group was to assess how Australia can contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and, in particular, to advise on:

- the nature and design of a workable global emissions trading system in which Australia would be able to participate

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- additional steps that might be taken, in Australia, consistent with the goal of establishing such a system.

In the limited time available, the Commission confined its contribution to outlining relevant frameworks and principles. Key points from its submission were:

- There is a growing consensus that the anthropogenic contribution to climate change could pose serious risks to future generations and that coordinated action is needed to manage these risks. However, uncertainty continues to pervade the science and geopolitics and, notwithstanding the Stern Review, the economics. This is leading to divergent views about when and how much abatement effort should be undertaken.
- To be fully efficient and effective, greenhouse gas abatement must occur globally. Effectiveness increases with the coverage of emissions and of emitting countries. Below a certain threshold, any abatement action will have little effect.
- It is in Australia's interest to participate in the design of a multilateral framework — for example, pressing for:
 - emission caps for all major emitting countries that are supported by strong verification arrangements, and can react flexibly to new information
 - allowance to gain credits for emission reduction projects in other countries and also flexibility in rules on land cover change.
- Independent action by Australia to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in itself, would deliver barely discernible climate benefits, but could be nationally very costly.
- Such action would therefore need to rest on other rationales.
 - Facilitating transition to an impending lower emissions economy is the strongest rationale for independent action, but it is contingent on the imminent emergence of an extensive international response.
- Current climate change policy in Australia is a disjointed, fragmented patchwork of measures across sectors and jurisdictions. The potential impact on resource allocation (for example, firm location) underscores the need for a national approach.
- A national approach should be based on greenhouse gas pricing — through an emissions tax or an emissions trading scheme. Due to its administrative simplicity, a tax has some merit as a transitional tool and could be introduced in a revenue neutral way.
- If it were decided to introduce a national emissions trading scheme:

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- to constrain costs, the emissions price should be kept modest via a ‘safety valve’ until a multilateral regime that comprised major emitting countries was in place
 - to limit adjustment costs and international relocation of production, it may be appropriate to mitigate the most adverse competitive impacts on energy-intensive producers until an international regime is in place
 - existing regulations that substitute for emissions trading should be discontinued.
 - Other policies may be warranted to address related market failures. These include support for relevant technological development and deployment, addressing barriers to energy efficiency and carbon capture and storage, and research into adaptation strategies. To optimise use of the community’s abatement dollar, all policy proposals should be subject to comparative assessment — such as cost per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions reduction or storage.

Joint ABS/Productivity Commission report

Characteristics of Australia’s irrigated farms, 2000-01 to 2003-04

ABS Cat. no. 4623.0, September 2006

To maximise the usefulness to the Australian community of ABS data collections on water use on Australian farms, the Australian Statistician seconded four employees of the Productivity Commission to assist with further analysis of the data. The collaborative arrangement between the ABS and the Commission was the first of its type between the two organisations.

The report examined the diversity of farm irrigation practices and management — providing a detailed statistical description of farms which use and trade irrigation water and provides estimates of the contribution of selected irrigated activities to the gross value of Australia’s agricultural production. It is intended that the statistical and other descriptive information will support wider analyses to identify farm management and resource use practices that contribute to the productivity and efficiency of irrigation water use. The key points of the report were:

- In 2003-04, 2.4 million hectares of agricultural land and 10 000 gegalitres of water were used for irrigated agricultural activities.

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- This constituted only 0.5 per cent of all agricultural land, but accounted for about 70 per cent of Australia’s annual use of extracted water by rural, industry and domestic users.
 - The gross value of irrigated production (GVIP) in Australia is estimated to have been around \$9 billion in 2003-04 — around one-quarter of the gross value of all agricultural production.
 - 52 per cent of Australia’s GVIP came from irrigated horticulture, with irrigated pastures and irrigated broadacre crops each contributing around 24 per cent.
 - Of the 130 500 agricultural establishments that operated in 2003-04, 40 400 irrigated.
 - Farms that irrigated generated, on average, 55 per cent more output per farm in 2003-04 than farms which did not irrigate — although the average land area of irrigated farms was less than that of non-irrigated farms.
 - Within irrigated agriculture, the largest 20 per cent of farms generated the majority of the GVIP. Of the output of irrigated pasture, irrigated broadacre and irrigated horticulture farms, 57, 69 and 73 per cent, respectively, was generated by the largest farms in each activity group.
 - Larger irrigated farms were generally more likely than smaller farms to irrigate in successive years. Larger farms also incurred lower ongoing irrigation expenses relative to their irrigation water use and were more likely to recycle irrigation water and use irrigation scheduling equipment.
 - Farms of all sizes engaged in trade of irrigation water, but trade has not been a frequent event for most farms. Farms with pastures as the main irrigated activity were the most active in water trade.
 - 43 per cent of irrigated pasture farms, 36 per cent of irrigated broadacre farms and 27 per cent of irrigated horticultural establishments traded water in at least one of the three years to 2003-04.
 - Only 13 per cent of irrigated pasture farms, 11 per cent of irrigated broadacre farms and 10 per cent of irrigated horticultural establishments traded water in every year.
 - Most trade in irrigation water was on a temporary basis.
 - In 2002-03, horticultural establishments (particularly farms with irrigated vegetables) were the main sellers, while farms with irrigated pastures and irrigated broadacre activities were the main buyers.

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- For trade on a permanent basis, fruit growing establishments were the main sellers of irrigation water entitlements in 2002-03, while farms with pastures, cotton or sugar were the main buyers.

Staff working papers

Note: The views expressed in staff working papers are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Productivity Commission.

Workforce participation rates — how does Australia compare?

Joanna Abhayaratna & Ralph Lattimore, December 2006

The interest in workforce participation has been heightened in recent years by concerns about the ageing of Australia's population and the associated shift in the age structure of the population towards older age groups with lower participation rates. COAG's National Reform Agenda highlights the need for more non-working Australians to 'realise their potential by entering or rejoining the workforce'.

International comparisons — showing that Australia's overall participation rate falls well short of some OECD countries — are often used as a benchmark to highlight the scope for Australia to lift its participation rate. These comparisons, however, are impeded by significant differences in the statistical practices used across the OECD to report workforce participation rates.

The paper identified several areas where statistical discrepancies exist: seasonality in labour force data; defence personnel; institutionalised populations; missing data for some age brackets; paid maternity leave; definitions of unemployment; and temporary residents. After adjusting for the effects of four of these areas — defence personnel, institutionalised populations, missing data for some age brackets and paid maternity leave — Australia's overall position increases from 10th to 5th place in 2005.

However, Australia has significantly lower rankings in the participation rates for three distinct labour market segments — men aged 25–54 years, women aged 25–44 years and people nearing retirement. This implies scope to lift Australia's participation rates and economic growth.

Men not at work: an analysis of men outside the labour force

Ralph Lattimore, January 2007

Of the 8 million Australian males in the adult male civilian population in 2005-06, at any one time more than 2.2 million or nearly 30 per cent were outside the labour force — neither working nor looking for work. This Staff Working Paper provided information on these men, where they live, why they are outside the labour force and the impacts of their economic inactivity.

The paper found that, in contrast to women, the rates at which men are disengaged from the labour force have increased four fold over the last century, rising particularly rapidly over the last 50 years.

The paper found that there are many drivers of this transformation in Australian labour markets.

- Some of it is due to population ageing, which swells the ranks of retirees. (But the impacts of ageing will be greater in the future than they have been in the past.)
- Younger men are spending longer in education and older men are enjoying a longer voluntary retirement.
- Men generally are now much more involved in domestic and child care tasks — that explains 30 per cent of those aged 35–44 years old absent from the labour market.

The view that many of the ‘inactive’ are at work in the ‘shadow economy’ was found to be a myth.

Many prime aged males leave the labour market due to injury, ill-health, disability or premature ‘retirement’, with about half the men aged 25–64 years who are outside the labour force in receipt of the Disability Support Pension. An important explanation for the lower labour force participation rates of these men is the shift away from unskilled manual work in an increasingly service-sector and skill-based economy.

Inactive men are more likely to be living alone, to be poorly educated, and of Indigenous or non-English speaking migrant background. For example, a man aged 45–54 years living alone is about four times more likely to be outside the labour force than one who is married or who has a partner.

Can Australia match US productivity performance?

Ben Dolman, Dean Parham & Simon Zheng, March 2007

This paper explored Australia's potential for future productivity growth against the performance benchmarks of other high-income OECD economies. For this purpose, the United States was taken to be the world's productivity leader in an aggregate 'technological' sense. Some European countries now have higher levels of productivity, but that reflects industry mix (oil production) and policy and institutional distortions in labour markets (which have not brought overall gain in average living standards).

Australia's catch up toward the US aggregate level of productivity since the 1950s has been generally weak. One positive (albeit transient) movement came in the 1970s, but it was associated with the US productivity growth slowdown and some unsustainable influences in Australia. Another sharp rise came in the 1990s, when Australian productivity growth accelerated sooner and faster than in the United States. But a sizeable gap between Australian and US productivity levels remains.

The paper's main conclusion was that the aggregate level of US productivity should not be regarded as a realistic target for Australia to achieve. Comparisons of productivity performance are more meaningfully made at an industry level. Although industry data are of poorer quality, it appears that some Australian industry sectors have performed at the productivity frontier and have participated in frontier shifts along with US industries. Large gaps remain in other areas: manufacturing, wholesale trade, retail trade, utilities (electricity, gas and water), communications and finance.

These comparisons suggest that Australia's relative performance is constrained by differences in industry presence and composition and in access to gains from specialisation and scale. Underpinning these differences are fundamental factors of history and geography, including Australia's remoteness from large markets and its pattern of settlement.

Australia may not be able to match US productivity levels in aggregate. However, an industry-by-industry assessment suggests that Australia is well placed to at least maintain its overall position relative to US productivity, even with resurgent US productivity growth. It also seems feasible for Australia to go further and to catch up some distance on US productivity levels, though this will not necessarily come automatically and further policy and institutional change may be needed.

Effects of health and education on labour force participation

Patrick Laplagne, Maurice Glover & Anthony Shomos, May 2007

This paper provided new estimates of the effects, on the probability of participation in the labour force, of changes in the prevalence of health conditions or changes in educational attainment levels.

The research confirmed that better health and education can result in substantially greater labour force participation for those affected:

- Of the six health conditions identified, a mental health or nervous condition, when averted, has the largest positive impact on labour force participation.
- Having a degree or higher qualification has the largest impact on labour force participation, relative to not completing Year 12.

Measurement of these effects is complicated by possible endogeneity bias due to:

- unobserved characteristics of individuals — for example, motivation, innate ability or preferences — which may influence health and education as well as the decision to engage in paid work
- the simultaneous determination of health and labour force participation.

The results suggest that unobserved characteristics affect decisions to participate in the labour force and health and labour force participation influence each other simultaneously.

This paper formed part of a research project investigating in more detail parameters used in the Commission's Research Paper *Potential Benefits of the National Reform Agenda* (see above). The new parameter estimates:

- altered some of the labour market projections contained in that report, but do not affect the thrust of the conclusions
- provide an improved basis for cost-benefit analyses of possible changes in specific health or education policies.

Table E.1 **Speeches and presentations by the Chairman, Commissioners and staff, 2006-07**

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Gary Banks, Chairman:		
Centre for Independent Studies Consilium, Coolum	Explaining the housing market puzzle	Aug 2006
26 th Conference of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, Gold Coast	Reducing rural red tape	Aug 2006
International Quality and Productivity Centre Conference, Brisbane	Promoting efficiency in road and rail freight infrastructure	Sept 2006
CRA International Seminar, Canberra	Road and rail pricing: some early observations ... and more questions	Sept 2006
Australian Transport Council meeting, Canberra	Promoting efficiency in road and rail freight infrastructure: ways forward?	Oct 2006
Conference on Australian Regulatory Reform Evolution, Canberra	Tackling the underlying causes of over-regulation – an update	Oct 2006
Rethinking Regulation Forum, Melbourne	The Regulation Taskforce's report and its aftermath	Nov 2006
Australian Public Service Commission SES Breakfast Seminar, Canberra	Rethinking Regulation: following through	Nov 2006
Melbourne Institute/The Australian 4 th Economic and Social Outlook Conference, Melbourne	Regulation for Australia's federation in the 21 st Century	Nov 2006
Conference on Latin America and the Asia Pacific: Opportunities and Pending Tasks, Santiago, Chile	Australia's reform experience and the role of the Productivity Commission	Nov 2006
Standing Committee of Officials of Consumer Affairs briefing, Melbourne (with Robert Fitzgerald)	Consumer policy framework	Dec 2006
Telstra Public Policy and Communications Presentation, Melbourne	Rethinking regulation and telecommunications	Feb 2007
CEO Forum Group, Melbourne	Regulatory reform in Australia: the next phase	March 2007
EABER Conference on Economic Reform and Regional Cooperation in East Asia, Beijing	Structural reform in Australia and the role of 'the Commission'	March 2007
Seminar on the Modernisation of the State and Public Policy – the Australian Experience, Santiago	Public policy reviews and reform: Australia's experience	April 2007
L21 Public Sector Leadership Conference, Sydney	Great expectations: management (and other) lessons from the Regulation Taskforce	May 2007

IPAA/Academy of Social Sciences Roundtable, Canberra	Federalism and reform	May 2007
OECD seminar, Paris	Regulatory reform in Australia: the next phase	June 2007
OECD 2nd World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge, and Policy: Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies, Istanbul, Turkey	Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage in Australia	June 2007
Commissioners:		
Canberra Evaluation Forum, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Evaluation of Indigenous programs	July 2006
NSW Treasury Economic Panel, Sydney (Mike Woods)	Ageing	July 2006
Policy Roundtable on Wellbeing, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Wellbeing and social capital	Aug 2006
Waste Management Association of Australia, Melbourne, (Philip Weickhardt)	Draft report on waste management	Aug 2006
Waste Management Association of Australia, Sydney, (Philip Weickhardt)	Draft report on waste management	Aug 2006
INORMS Congress on the Internationalisation of Research, Brisbane (Mike Woods)	Innovation policy	Aug 2006
Australian Water Association, Dry Areas Forum, Canberra (Neil Byron)	Opening trade in water rights — rural, urban & environment	Sept 2006
Joint ABARE/AARES Seminar, Canberra (Neil Byron)	Rural water use: rights, markets, efficiency & externalities	Sept 2006
Australian Medical Students' Association Leadership Seminar, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Health workforce	Sept 2006
National Conference of the Aged and Community Services Association, Gold Coast (Mike Woods with Rosalie McLachlan)	Aged care	Sept 2006
Australia New Zealand Regional Science Association 2006 Annual Conference, Beechworth (Neil Byron)	Conservation of Australia's historic heritage places: investing in regional assets	Sept 2006
Victorian Healthcare Association Annual Conference, Melbourne (Robert Fitzgerald)	Australia's health workforce: solving the problem	Oct 2006
Master Builders Association Annual Dinner, Canberra (Steven Kates)	Money and markets	Oct 2006
Melbourne Institute/The Australian 4 th Economic and Social Outlook Conference, Melbourne (Neil Byron)	Water reform, property rights & hydrological realities	Nov 2006

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ausbiotech National Conference, Sydney (Steven Kates)	Draft report on public support for science and innovation	Nov 2006
Queensland Nanotechnology Alliance, Brisbane (Steven Kates)	Draft report on public support for science and innovation	Nov 2006
Office of Spatial Data Management Conference, Canberra (Robert Fitzgerald)	Standard setting and laboratory accreditation – issues and challenges in the Australian context	Nov 2006
Innovation Leadership Summit, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Draft report on science and innovation	Dec 2006
5 th International Rural Nursing Congress, Albury (Mike Woods)	Health workforce reform	March 2007
Legal Research Foundation Conference, Wellington, NZ (Mike Woods)	Competition law harmonisation	March 2007
CEDA Australia's Future: Innovation in the 21 st Century, Sydney (Mike Woods)	Final report on public support for science and innovation	March 2007
General Practice Registrars Australia Workforce Forum, Canberra (Mike Woods)	Health workforce reform	March 2007
AFR Higher Education Summit, Melbourne (Mike Woods)	Final report on public support for science and innovation	April 2007
APPEA Conference, Adelaide (Mike Woods)	Annual Review of Regulatory Burdens on Business	April 2007
Centre for Credit and Consumer Law Network meeting, Brisbane (Robert Fitzgerald)	Consumer policy review	May 2007
Australian APEC Study Centre training program, Melbourne (Judith Sloan)	Productivity: labour market	May 2007
Staff:		
National Transport Commission Seminar, Canberra (Jonathan Pincus)	Productive reform in a federal system	July 2006
Dusseldorp Skills Forum Workshop on Successful Youth Transitions, Melbourne (Helen Mignot)	COAG Review of Government Service Provision	Aug 2006
Commonwealth–State Forum on Economic Framework Issues, Canberra (Dean Parham & Ben Dolman)	Frontier shifts and catch-up as influences on Australia's productivity outlook	Aug 2006
IPAA National Conference, Alice Springs (Lawrence McDonald)	Size, distance and the Report on Government Services: the treatment of scale and remoteness in ROGS	Sept 2006

Conference on recruitment and retention for government, Canberra (Pat Heagerty)	Remaining competitive in a tight employee market: speeding up recruitment processes	Sept 2006
Conference on implementing robust performance improvement framework for government service delivery, Canberra (Lawrence McDonald)	Measuring and improving service delivery at a whole-of-government level	Sept 2006
OECD Workshop on Productivity Measurement and Analysis, Bern, Switzerland (Dean Parham)	Empirical analysis of the effects of R&D on productivity: implications for productivity measurement?	Oct 2006
IIR Conference on Water Pricing 2006, Sydney (Gavan Dwyer)	Rural water use and the environment: the role of market mechanisms	Oct 2006
35 th Australian Conference of Economists, Perth (John Salerian)	Economic impacts of skilled migration	Oct 2006
35 th Australian Conference of Economists, Perth (Graeme Cuxon)	Economic effects of an increase in the skilled migration program	Oct 2006
Multimedia Victoria Seminar, Melbourne (Dean Parham)	ICT use, productivity and prosperity	Oct 2006
Australian APEC Study Centre training program, Melbourne (Michael Kirby)	Role and functions of the Productivity Commission	Oct 2006
Philippine Economics Society 44 th Annual Meeting, Manila (Bernard Wonder)	Regulation, institutions and governance – some recent Australian experience	Nov 2006
Philippine Institute of Development Studies /ANU Conference on Micro-Economic Foundations of Economic Performance in East Asia, Manila (Bernard Wonder)	Policy determinants of productivity growth in Australia	Nov 2006
APEC Economic Seminar on Priorities in Structural Reform, Canberra (Bernard Wonder)	Economic performance, policy reform and institutional arrangements – some Australian experiences	Jan 2007
Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society 51 st Annual Conference, Queenstown, NZ (Paul Gretton)	The responsiveness of Australian farm performance to changes in irrigation water use and trade	Feb 2007
24 th Meeting of APEC Small & Medium Enterprises Working Group, Hobart (Su McCluskey)	Reducing red tape	March 2007
Coordination Committee for Science and Technology Evaluation Workshop, Canberra (Ralph Lattimore)	Evaluation challenges for public support of science and innovation	March 2007
Business Coalition for Tax Reform Meeting, Melbourne (Su McCluskey)	New regulatory framework	March 2007

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Table E.1 (continued)

<i>Organisation/event</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Date</i>
Conference on Government Service Delivery, Canberra (Lawrence McDonald)	Measuring whole-of-government performance for better outcomes management	March 2007
ATO Policy Government & Liaison Team Conference, Canberra (Su McCluskey)	New regulatory framework	March 2007
Centre for Corporate Public Affairs Politics and Public Policy Review 2007, Canberra (Bernard Wonder)	The microeconomic reform agenda and the Productivity Commission	March 2007
Insurance Council of Australia Regulatory Affairs Seminar, Sydney (Su McCluskey)	Are governments responding to the high regulatory cost burden?	April 2007
ACT Treasury, Canberra (Su McCluskey)	Overview of new regulatory requirements	April 2007
Australia and New Zealand School of Government, Canberra (Su McCluskey)	Better practice in developing policy: business regulation at the Commonwealth level	April 2007
Economic Society of Australia (NSW Branch) Seminar, Sydney (Dean Parham)	Can Australia match US productivity performance?	May 2007
Australian APEC Study Centre training program, Melbourne (Stephen Rimmer)	Structural reform, productivity enhancement and good regulatory systems	May 2007
Australian APEC Study Centre training program, Melbourne (Dean Parham)	Productivity: definition, measurement, reasons for importance Productivity: determinants and influences	May 2007
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy Conference on Micro Foundations of East Asia Economic Integration, Seoul (Michael Kirby)	Institutional foundations and economic reform: an Australian perspective	May 2007
Treasury Seminar, Canberra (Ralph Lattimore)	Public support for science and innovation in Australia	May 2007
Treasury Seminar, Canberra (Lawrence McDonald)	Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage	June 2007
Council of Humanities, Arts and Social Science, Canberra (Ralph Lattimore)	Public support for science and innovation	June 2007
12 th Dynamics, Economic Growth and International Trade Conference, Melbourne (Ben Dolman)	Patterns of migration, trade and foreign direct investment across OECD countries	June 2007

Table E.2 International delegations and visitors, 2006-07

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date and location</i>
Prof Andre Sapir (European Union)	The Commission's role and functions	Jul 06 (C)
Delegation from China's Ministry of Finance	The Commission's role, functions and work program	Jul 06 (M)
Dr Mari Pangestu, Indonesian Minister of Trade	Trade policy	Aug 06 (M)
Beijing Bureau of Finance	Financial management reform	Aug 06 (C)
WTO Delegation	Trade policy	Aug 06 (M)
Delegations from China's Central Party School	Structural reforms and issues related to government trading enterprises	Sep 06 (C)
Delegation from Indonesia	Regulation impact assessment processes	Oct 06 (C)
UK Treasury Productivity Team	Australian higher education policy	Oct 06 (M/C)
Policy Research Institute, Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Regulation impact assessment issues	Oct 06 (C)
Delegation from Kazakhstan	Service delivery performance in health and education	Oct 06 (C)
Delegation from the China's Legislative Affairs Office	Regulation review and assessment	Nov 06 (C)
Delegation from China's Development Research Centre	Policy processes in Australia	Nov 06 (C)
French Embassy	The Australian Government's new regulatory framework	Nov 06 (C)
Budgetary Affairs Commission of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China	Longer term fiscal impact of social security	Nov 06 (C)
National Development and Reform Commission of China	The Commission's role and functions	Nov 06 (M)
National Economic and Social Advisory Council of Thailand	The Commission's role and functions	Nov 06 (C)
Iranian Ministry of Health	Australian health workforce reforms	Dec 06 (C)
NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	The Commission's research activities, productivity gains from trade and modelling of services trade liberalisation	Dec 06 (C)
Singaporean Ministry of Trade and Industry	Australia's productivity and innovation experience at the sectoral level	Jan 07 (C)
China Australian Governance Program Delegation	Delivery of Australian public services at the Commonwealth, State and local government levels	Feb 07 (M)

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Table E.2 (continued)

<i>Organisation/delegation</i>	<i>Briefing/discussion purpose of visit</i>	<i>Date and location</i>
China Australian Governance Program Delegation	Delivery of Australian public services at the Commonwealth, State and local government levels	Feb 07 (M)
Visitors from the universities of Tokyo and Tsukuba	Health regulation impact assessment	Feb 07 (C)
Chilean delegation	The Commission's role and activities and regulatory reform	Feb 07 (C)
Fact Finding Mission from Botswana	The Commission's role and activities	Mar 07 (C)
Chilean Economic Development Agency	The Commission's role and activities	Mar 07 (C)
Director of the OECD Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries	The Commission's role and activities	Mar 07 (C)
US Embassy officials	Staff Working Paper on US/Australian productivity	Mar 07 (C)
Vietnam Central Institute of Economic Management	Competition policy and regulatory reform	Mar 07 (C)
Delegation from the National Development and Reform Commission of China	The role, functions and activities of the Commission, its public hearing processes and national competition policy reforms	Apr 07 (C)
Delegation from the National Development and Reform Commission of China	Management of the Commission's supporting research program	Apr 07 (M)
New Zealand parliamentarians	The role and activities of the OBPR	May 07 (C)
New Zealand Institute	Policy issues	May 07 (C)
Thailand Development Research Institute and others	The Commission's role and activities	May 07 (C)
ASEAN Media Visitors	The Commission's role and activities	May 07 (C)
Mark Fagan (Harvard University Rail Research)	Rail regulation in Australia	May 07 (C/M)
IMF Article IV Team	Productivity, the National Reform Agenda and the Regulation Taskforce's Report	Jun 07 (C)

(C) Canberra (M) Melbourne