



Business Regulation Benchmarking – Stage 2

Productivity
Commission
Circular

23 December 2008
No: BRB1C

Continuation of benchmarking study: - occupational health and safety - food safety

The Productivity Commission has received a request from government to commence the second year of the Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation. The COAG Business Regulation Working Group agreed that the Commission should benchmark:

- occupational health and safety (OHS) regulation
- food safety regulation.

The terms of reference for this continuing work program are set out in a letter from the Assistant Treasurer, dated 16 December 2008, and reproduced in Attachment A. In his letter, the Assistant Treasurer specified that the Commission 'may structure its work as it sees fit within the timeframe indicated' and this flexibility in managing the two studies is reflected in the current time table.

The Commission has been asked to report on these areas by December 2009.

Information Papers

Following initial consultations with governments, business organisations and other interested parties, the Commission will publish Information Papers for its benchmarking studies into OHS and for food safety regulation. These papers will contain further information about this second year of the continuing benchmarking program and seek input from participants on how the Commission might best proceed on the burden associated with the OHS and food safety regulatory regimes.

Interested parties will be invited to provide written submissions, which will be publicly available and placed on the Commission's website soon after receipt.

Timetable

An indicative timetable for the study is as follows:

- Consultations with governments, businesses and other interested parties..... ongoing
- Surveys and focus groups with governments, businesses and other interested parties ongoing
- Release of Information Papers..... February-March 2009
- Initial submissions dueApril-May 2009
- Publication of exposure draft and call for further submissions.. August-September 2009
- Final reports December 2009

How to register your interest

To register an interest in this study, please complete Attachment B and return it by fax or mail to the address provided, or submit your contact details by email (see below). Alternatively, you can register online via the website for the study (see below). You will then be kept informed about the study's progress through periodic circulars and emails. The Commission will also post updates on its website.

Contacts for further information

For further information, please contact:

- Christine Underwood (administrative matters)..... Ph: (02) 6240 3262
- Sue Holmes (other matters)..... Ph: (02) 6240 3351
- Fax Ph: (02) 6240 3377
- Email OHS ohs@pc.gov.au
Food Safety foodsafety@pc.gov.au
- Freecall number for regional areas..... 1800 020 083
- Telephone Typewriter (TTY)..... 1800 803 344
- Study website. <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/regulationbenchmarking/ohs-food-safety>

An information kit on the Productivity Commission is available by contacting the Media and Publications section on (03) 9653 2244 or email: maps@pc.gov.au. The Commission's website also provides this information, as well as information on other projects.

Sue Holmes
Assistant Commissioner



The Hon Chris Bowen MP
Assistant Treasurer
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

16 DEC 2008

Mr Gary Banks AO
Chairman
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Mr ^{Gary}Banks

I am writing to you regarding the 2009 work plan of the Productivity Commission's Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation study.

In response to your request of 12 September 2008, this matter was raised at the 24 October 2008 Council of Australian Governments' Business Regulation and Competition Working Group meeting.

The BRCWG:

- noted the merit in continuing the benchmarking work program;
- agreed that occupational health and safety and food safety regulation should be considered by the Commission in year 2;
- requested that the Commission complete the OH&S and food safety benchmarking reports by December 2009; and
- agreed to revisit the Commission's future work plan in relation to the benchmarking study in 12 months time.

I would be grateful if you could undertake whatever action is necessary to fulfil the BRCWG's direction. The Commission may structure its work as it sees fit within the timeframe indicated above.

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation and the Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS BOWEN

PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Telephone: 02 6277 7356
Facsimile: 02 6275 4125
<http://assistant.treasurer.gov.au>



**REGISTRATION OF INTEREST
Business Regulation Benchmarking –
Stage 2:**

- **occupational health and safety**
- **food safety**

If you would like to register your interest in this study, and have not already done so, provide the following details to the Commission, either by completing the online form, by email, or by completing this form and forwarding it to:

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Business Regulation Benchmarking – Stage 2 or | Contact: | Christine Underwood |
| Productivity Commission | Phone: | (02) 6240 3262 |
| PO Box 1428 | Fax: | (02) 6240 3322 |
| Canberra City ACT 2616 | Email: | ohs@pc.gov.au or foodsafety@pc.gov.au |

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Organisation: | ----- | |
| Principal contact: | | Phone: ----- |
| Position: | | Fax: ----- |
| Email address: | | Mobile ----- |
| Street address: | ----- | |
| Suburb/City: | | State & P'code: ----- |
| Postal address: | ----- | |
| Suburb/City: | | State & P'code: ----- |

Our study material is normally sent by post or email.
Please specify any special requirements:

Please indicate which areas of regulation interest you:

occupational health and safety

food safety

For future research studies and inquiries:

- I give permission for my personal details to be used by the Commission to advise me of related work /reports. This information will NOT be provided to third parties.