

Question on Notice

No. 152

Asked on 16 February 2017

MR S EMERSON ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (HON C PITT)—

QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer individually outline every instance he has written to the Queensland Productivity Commission requesting its advice on a matter relating to productivity, economic development or industry since its establishment, listed by date and purpose?

ANSWER:

I have, by written notice to the Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission), directed that it undertake inquiries into the following matters relating to productivity, economic development or industry in Queensland:

- Electricity pricing (June 2015, with a formal direction issued under the *Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2015* (QPC Act) in December 2015 following the passage of the Act) – the purpose of the inquiry was for the Commission to identify options to:
 - promote the long-term interests of electricity consumers;
 - place downward pressure on electricity prices; and
 - ensure a dynamic and responsive pricing framework.
- Solar feed-in pricing (August 2015, and reissued in 16 December 2015 following the passage of the QPC Act) – the purpose of the inquiry was for the Commission to investigate and report on a fair price for solar exports produced by small customers.
- Queensland's manufacturing sector, including a review of reshoring initiatives (September 2016) – the purpose of the inquiry is to identify policy options to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector in Queensland, and examine opportunities to:
 - build on existing competitive advantages and advanced manufacturing niches;
 - take advantage of emerging opportunities; and
 - address challenges, especially for businesses and workers less able to adapt and reposition themselves in a changing market.

- Service delivery in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait communities (December 2016) – the purpose of the inquiry is to look at:
 - what the Queensland Government currently spends on services and what is delivered on the ground;
 - better ways to deliver existing government services and manage, coordinate and target services;
 - how the Queensland Government can improve services; and
 - the best ways to evaluate services delivered in communities.

I have also, by written notice to the Commission, directed it to conduct research into, or analysis of, regulatory matters as follows:

- undertake regulatory review functions, including those carried out by the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) (June 2015, and reissued in December 2015 following the passage of the QPC Act);
- undertake a regulatory impact assessment of the *Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015* (September 2015); and
- provide advice on particular recommendations of the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council Report (November 2016).

(Note: further information on work undertaken by the Commission can be found at www.qpc.qld.gov.au).