

Barton Deakin Brief: Coalition Government Inquiries

20 November 2015

Since it was elected in September 2013, the Coalition Government has initiated a number of inquiries and reviews.

This Barton Deakin Brief is a summary of the progress of the key inquiries, reviews and White Papers commenced or promised by the Coalition Government.

It outlines the following details for each inquiry, review or White Paper:

- Responsible Minister(s);
- Responsible Panel or other body;
- Status;
- Key dates; and
- Further information.

This Brief will be regularly updated as these inquiries progress.

Note: Where there has been a change of Minister in the relevant portfolio, the current Minister is listed.

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Inquiry	Responsible Minister(s)	Panel	Status	Key dates	Further information
Commission of Audit	Treasurer (Scott Morrison) and Finance (Mathias Cormann)	<p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Shepherd AO • Dr Peter Boxall AO • Tony Cole AO • Robert Fisher AM • Amanda Vanstone 	Complete.	Report released 1 May 2014.	<p>Barton Deakin Briefs on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full Report • Privatisation, Procurement and Divestment • ICT • Education • Health
Competition Policy Review	Small Business (Kelly O'Dwyer)	<p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Ian Harper • Su McCluskey • Michael O'Bryan SC • Peter Anderson 	Complete.	Final Report released 1 April 2015. Government response released 24 November 2015.	Barton Deakin has produced Briefs on the Issues Paper , Draft Report and Final Report .
Financial System Inquiry	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	<p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Murray AO • Professor Kevin Davis • Craig Dunn • Carolyn Hewson AO • Dr Brian McNamee AO 	Complete.	Final Report released 7 December 2014. The government has yet to respond.	<p>Inquiry website is here.</p> <p>Barton Deakin Brief on the Interim Report is available here and Brief on the Final Report is here.</p>
Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review	Industry, Innovation & Science (Christopher Pyne)	<p><u>Panel:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Warburton AO • Matthew Zema • Dr Brian Fisher AO • Shirley In't Veld 	Complete.	The government concluded negotiations on a revised RET target on 18 May 2015. A 33,000 gigawatt target has been set.	Barton Deakin Brief on the Terms of Reference is here and Brief on the Review Report is here . The Review website is here .
Review of Australia's Welfare System	Social Services (Christian Porter)	<p><u>Reference Group:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick McClure AO • Sally Sinclair • Wesley Aird 	Complete.	Final Report released 25 February 2015.	Barton Deakin Brief on the Interim Report is here . Brief on the Final Report is here . Reference Group website is here .
Future of Franchising Review	Small Business (Kelly O'Dwyer)	The proposed changes were made with reference to the 2013 Review of the Franchising Code by Mr Alan Wein.	Draft changes to franchising laws released. Submissions closed 30 April 2014.	Changes to franchising laws expected to take effect 1 January 2015.	Barton Deakin Brief on the Review is here .
NBN Co Strategic Review	Communications (Mitch Fifield) and Finance (Mathias Cormann)	Internal review by team at NBN Co and its advisers.	Complete.	Final Strategic Review published 12 December 2013.	Barton Deakin Brief on the key findings of the Review is here .
Independent Audit of the NBN Policy Process	Communications (Mitch Fifield)	Bill Scales AO	Complete.	Final Report released on 5 August 2014.	Audit website is here .

Cost-Benefit Analysis and Review of Regulation by NBN Panel of Experts	Communications (Mitch Fifield)	Dr Michael Vertigan AC Alison Deans Professor Henry Ergas Tony Shaw PSM	Complete.	Cost-benefit analysis report and the Statutory Review released on 27 August 2014. Market and Regulatory Report released on 1 October.	Review website is here . Barton Deakin's Brief summarising the three reports from the NBN Panel of Experts can be read here .
Indigenous Jobs and Training Review	Prime Minister (Malcolm Turnbull)	Mr Andrew Forrest	Final Report handed to the Government.	Government to release response following submission process.	Barton Deakin Brief on the Review is here .
Review of Border Fees, Charges and Taxes	Immigration and Border Protection (Peter Dutton)	Review to be led by Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection	An Industry Consultation Paper has been released.	Submissions were due on 31 October 2014.	Barton Deakin's Brief on the announcement of the review is here .
Expert Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation	Health (Sussan Ley)	Expert Panel led by Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO, supported by Mr Will Delaat AM and Professor John Horvath AO.	The Terms of Reference have been released. A discussion paper will be published in the near future.	Submissions on Discussion Paper and Chapter on Complimentary Medicines due 8 April 2015.	Barton Deakin's Brief on the Terms of Reference is here . Further information is on the Department of Health website here .
Cyber Security Review	Prime Minister (Malcolm Turnbull)	Led by Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and supported by an Expert Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Westacott, CEO of the Business Council of Australia John Stewart, Chief Security & Trust Officer at Cisco Systems (US) Mike Burgess, Chief Information Security Officer at Telstra Dr Tobias Feakin, Director - International Cyber Policy Centre at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute 	Terms of Reference have been released.	The Final Report will be produced by mid-2016.	The Prime Minister's media release can be read here .
Medicare Benefits Schedule Review	Health (Sussan Ley)	The Taskforce is Chared by Professor Bruce Robinson.	The Terms of Reference have been released. Submissions were due by 9 November 2015.	An Interim Report is due out December 2015. The Final Report is due out December 2016.	The Minister for Health's media release can be read here . Barton Deakin's Brief on the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review is here .
Review of Illegal Offshore Wagering	Social Services (Christian Porter)	The Hon Barry O'Farrell, former Premier of New South Wales is conducting the Review.	Terms of Reference have been released.	Submissions are due on 16 November 2015. The Final Report is due by the 18 December 2015.	Further information is on the Department of Social Security's website here .
White Papers					
Agriculture Competitiveness White	Agriculture and Water Resources	The White Paper process is being overseen by an Agricultural Competitiveness	Terms of Reference and Issues Paper released.	Stakeholders invited to make a submission before	Barton Deakin has produced Briefs on the on the Terms of Reference , the Green

Paper	(Barnaby Joyce)	Taskforce within the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture.	First round of submissions closed 1 May 2014. Green Paper released 21 October 2014.	12 December 2014. White Paper released 4 July 2015.	Paper and the White Paper . The White Paper website is here .
Energy White Paper	Industry, Innovation & Science (Christopher Pyne)	Expert Reference Panel assisting Energy White Paper Taskforce within the Department of Industry	Complete.	White Paper released 9 April.	Barton Deakin has produced Briefs on the Terms of Reference , Green Paper and White Paper .
Emissions Reduction Fund White Paper	Environment (Greg Hunt)	The Expert Reference Group was co-chaired by Danny Price and David Green OBE. Full details are available here .	Complete.	White Paper released 24 April 2014.	Barton Deakin Brief on the White Paper is here .
White Paper on the Development of Northern Australia	Prime Minister (Malcolm Turnbull), Deputy Prime Minister (Warren Truss), Energy, Resources and Northern Australia (Josh Frydenberg)	Northern Australia Strategic Partnership comprises the PM, Premiers of Qld and WA, and the NT Chief Minister. White Paper prepared by a Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet taskforce.	Complete.	White Paper released 18 June 2015.	Barton Deakin has prepared Briefs on the Terms of Reference , Green Paper and White Paper . White Paper website is here .
		A Parliamentary Joint Committee on Northern Australia has been formed under Warren Entsch MP.	Complete.	Parliamentary Joint Committee tabled a Final Report on 4 September 2014	
White Paper on Reform of the Federation	Prime Minister (Malcolm Turnbull)	A Taskforce within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will develop the White Paper. A Steering Committee comprising Secretaries and Chief Executives of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, State/Territory First Ministers' departments, and the Australian Local Government Association will oversee the process.	Terms of Reference for White Paper released. First Issues Paper , 'A Federation for Our Future' released on 12 September 2014.	Four further Issues Papers released in the second half of 2014. Green Paper delivered by the end of 2015. White Paper is due out by mid 2016.	Barton Deakin Brief on the Terms of Reference here .
White Paper on Defence	Defence (Marise Payne)	Expert panel : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Jennings • Rear Admiral James Goldrick (Ret'd) • Rory Medcalf • Mike Kalms • Dr Andrew Davies • Dr Stephan Fruhling 	The White Paper process has been announced . A Defence Issues Paper was released earlier in 2014.	Submissions informing the White Paper due on 29 October 2014.	The Defence White Paper website is here .
White Paper on the Reform of Australia's Tax System	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	A Taskforce within the Commonwealth Treasury will oversee the White Paper process.	Discussion Paper released on 30 March. Submissions due 24 July 2015, extended to include retirement income issues.	Green Paper due in late 2015 and White Paper due in 2016. The Government has indicated that the Federation White Paper will be closely aligned with the Tax Reform White Paper.	Barton Deakin's Brief on the Discussion Paper can be read here . The tax reform website is here .

Senate Committee Inquiries					
Corporate Tax Avoidance	Australian Senate	Economics References Committee	<p>Submissions closed 2 February 2015.</p> <p>Public hearings were held in for early April 2015.</p> <p>Terms of Reference are here.</p>	The Report Part 1 was released 18 August 2015.	Inquiry website is here .
Inquiry into the Performance of ASIC	Australian Senate	Economics References Committee	Complete.	Final Report tabled 26 June 2014.	Final Report is here .
Korea-Australia Free Trade Agreement	Australian Senate	Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade	Complete.	Final Report tabled 1 October 2014.	Final Report is here .
Higher Education and Research Reform Amendment Bill	Australian Senate	Standing Committee on Education and Employment	Complete.	Final Report tabled 28 October 2014.	Final Report is here .
Tax & Superannuation Laws Amendment (2014 Measures No 5) Bill	Australian Senate	Standing Committee on Economics	Complete.	Final Report tabled 28 October 2014.	Final Report is here .
House of Representatives Committee Inquiries					
Inquiry into Foreign Investment in Residential Real Estate	House of Representatives	Standing Committee on Economics	Terms of Reference released. Submissions closed 9 May 2014.	Final Report tabled 28 November 2014.	<p>Barton Deakin Brief on the Terms of Reference is here.</p> <p>The Committee website is here.</p>
Inquiry into Tax Disputes	House of Representatives	Standing Committee on Tax and Revenue	Complete.	Final Report tabled 26 March 2015.	<p>The Committee website is here.</p> <p>The Inspector-General of Taxation website on the Inquiry is here.</p>
Country of Origin Labelling for Food	House of Representatives	Standing Committee on Agriculture and Industry	Complete.	Final Report released 27 October 2014.	The Final Report is here .
Infrastructure Planning and Procurement	House of Representatives	Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Communications	Complete.	Final Report tabled in Parliament on 4 December 2014.	The Committee website is here .
Productivity Commission Inquiries					
Child Care and Early Childhood Learning	Social Services (Christian Porter)	Productivity Commission	<p>Terms of Reference and Issues Paper released. Initial submissions closed February 2014.</p> <p>Draft Report released July 2014.</p>	Final Report released 23 February 2015.	<p>Barton Deakin Brief on the Terms of Reference is here.</p> <p>Our Brief on the Draft Report is here.</p> <p>Our Brief on the Final Report is here.</p>
Industrial Relations/Fair Work Act	Employment (Michaelia Cash)	Productivity Commission	Five Issues Papers released 23 January 2015.	Commission released Draft Report 4 August 2015.	Barton Deakin's Brief on the Issues Papers is here .

					Barton Deakin's Brief on the Draft Report is available here .
The Automotive Manufacturing Industry	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Preliminary Findings Report released 20 December 2013.	Final Report handed to Government 31 March 2014 and released on 26 August 2014.	Inquiry website is here . Final Report is here .
Natural Disaster Funding	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Draft Report released 25 September 2014 and submissions closed on 21 October 2014.	Final Report delivered to government, yet to be released.	Inquiry website is here .
Costs of Doing Business: Retail Trade Industry	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference , Issues Paper and Interim Report released.	Research Report released 10 October 2014.	Final Research Report is here .
Dairy Product Manufacturing	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference , Issues Paper and Interim Report released.	Research Report released 10 October 2014.	Final Research Report is here .
Geographic Labour Mobility	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Complete.	Final Report sent to Government on 22 April 2014 and released on 6 May 2014.	Inquiry website is here .
Public Infrastructure	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Complete	Final Report sent to Government on 27 May 2014 and released on 14 July 2014.	Inquiry website is here Barton Deakin Brief on the Final Report is here . Inquiry website is here .
Intellectual Property Arrangements	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference and Issues Paper released.	Draft Report Due out in March/April 2016. Final Report due out in August 2016	Inquiry website is here .
Public Safety in Mobile Broadband	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference and Issues Paper released.	Final Report due out in December 2015.	Inquiry website is here .
Migrant Intake into Australia	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference and Issues Paper released.	Draft Report Due out mid November 2015. Final Report due out mid March 2016.	Inquiry website is here .
Service Exports	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference , Issues Paper and Draft Report released.	Final Report due out in December 2015.	Inquiry website is here .
Workplace Relations Framework	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference , Issues Paper and Draft Report released.	Final Report due out in November 2015.	Inquiry website is here .
Regulation of Agriculture	Treasurer (Scott Morrison)	Productivity Commission	Terms of Reference released.	Final Report to be released August 2016.	Inquiry website is here

