

SENIOR OFFICIALS/HEADS OF TREASURIES REVIEW OF THE REPORT ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has requested that a Senior Officials and Heads of Treasuries Working Group (Working Group) undertake a review of the *Report on Government Services* (ROGS).

Scope of the Review

2. In undertaking this review, the Working Group will consider:-
 - (a) the extent to which the collection and publication of the data contained in the ROGS has enabled ongoing comparisons of the efficiency and effectiveness of Commonwealth and State government services,
 - (b) the degree to which data published in the ROGS has led to changes in the delivery of services by government, and
 - (c) the ongoing usefulness of the ROGS to its government, non-government and community stakeholders, and the extent to which the Federal financial reforms agreed by COAG, and in particular the performance reporting framework in the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations, will affect it.
3. In the light of the assessment undertaken in relation to 2 (a), (b) and (c) above the Working Group consider:-
 - (a) whether the ROGS terms of reference remain valid or should be changed in any way,
 - (b) if the number of service areas covered by the ROGS remains appropriate,
 - (c) whether changes should be made to the performance indicators for different services to strengthen comparisons of efficiency and effectiveness across and within governments,
 - (d) the manner in which performance information is collected and whether this might be improved or strengthened to allow the more timely publication of the ROGS,
 - (e) whether any changes should be made to membership and operations of the Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision (SCRGSP) and its associated working groups,
 - (f) whether the Secretariat to the SCRGSP should continue to be provided by the Productivity Commission, and
 - (g) whether any changes in the presentation and publication of the information contained in the ROGS should be made, including taking advantage of contemporary methods of data dissemination, new technology, web-based services and the internet.
4. In undertaking this task, the Working Group will:-
 - (a) consult Australian Governments and their affected agencies, and ROGS' non-government and community stakeholders,
 - (b) have regard to any other relevant reviews commissioned by Australian governments,
 - (c) have regard to other performance measurement arrangements within Australia or overseas,

- (d) take account of the reforms to Commonwealth-State financial relations and the performance reporting framework agreed by COAG, including the expanded role of the COAG Reform Council, and
- (e) take account of the linked Commonwealth-State review of existing data collection processes, including the Review of Government Service Provision, and the work of Ministerial Councils and data collection agencies to address data gaps, reduce overlap and duplication, and improve timeliness with a view to promoting efficient data collection practices.

Timing of Report by the Working Group

5. The Working Group will report to COAG, through the Senior Officials and Heads of Treasuries, in September 2009.