

Commonwealth of Australia 2013

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The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government’s independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission’s independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

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# Foreword

The Productivity Commission is required under its Act to report annually on industry assistance and its effects on the economy. *Trade & Assistance Review 2011-12* contains the Commission’s latest quantitative estimates of Australian Government assistance to industry. It also identifies recent developments in assistance for various industries and sectors of the economy, and international trade policy.

This year’s review includes an information chapter on Intellectual Property, the design and implementation of which has widespread influences on Australia’s innovation and trade. The Commission has also recently completed a report on *Compulsory Licensing of Patents.* Combined, this work could provide a base for further work on what is likely to be an area of increasing trade and innovation policy interest.

In preparing this report, the Commission has received helpful advice and feedback from a number of officials in Australian Government agencies and academia. The Commission is very grateful for their assistance.

Peter Harris  
Chairman   
June 2013

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# Abbreviations

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics

ACTA Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

ANZSIC Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification

APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

BRTAs bilateral and regional trade agreements

CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

DBCDE Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DIISRTE Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education

DRET Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism

IAC Industries Assistance Commission

IC Industry Commission

IP Intellectual property

ISDS investor-state dispute settlement

PC Productivity Commission

RCEP Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

R&D Research and Development

TES Tax Expenditures Statement

TPP Trans-Pacific Partnership

TRIPS Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

WIPO United Nations World Intellectual Property Organization

WTO World Trade Organization