



MEDIA RELEASE

BILL SHORTEN, Assistant Treasurer, and
CRAIG EMERSON, Minister for Trade

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Productivity Commission inquiry into the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

The Government today announced an inquiry by the Productivity Commission into the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC).

The previous review of EFIC, which provides finance to exporters, was undertaken in 2006 by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It recommended then that a more detailed and independent inquiry be carried out.

Australian capital markets have changed considerably since existing export credit arrangements were established. Australia now has extensive and sophisticated capital markets, providing a diverse range of instruments and services.

Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten has released the Terms of Reference for the Productivity Commission inquiry, which will report to the Government in 2012.

The inquiry will consider the role for government involvement in the provision of export credits, insurance, reinsurance and other financial services.

The inquiry will also consider EFIC's funding arrangements, capital adequacy requirements and the interaction between EFIC's operations and other government programs, international agencies and the private sector.

The Productivity Commission will consult with private sector organisations, relevant professionals and interested parties as part of its research.

Further information can be found at the Productivity Commission's website:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/>

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