

Changes to non-statutory bodies

8 November 2013

On 8 November 2013 Prime Minister the Hon. Tony Abbott MP announced Government plans to abolish, dismantle or rationalise 21 non-statutory bodies. This includes the abolition of twelve non-statutory bodies, the amalgamation of four with other non-statutory bodies, and the absorption of five within Commonwealth departments.

This Occasional Paper will be updated shortly to include a link to Prime Minister Abbott's Media Release announcing the decision when it is made available online.

Non-statutory bodies to be abolished

Twelve non-statutory bodies operating across a range of policy areas, including transport and infrastructure, health, the environment and legal services, will be abolished by the Government.

The High Speed Rail Advisory Group, which investigates the feasibility of a high speed rail link along the east coast of Australia, is to be abolished. The Group was led by former Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Tim Fischer and Business Council of Australia Chief, Jennifer Westacott.

The Hawker Britton Occasional Paper on High Speed Rail and the High Speed Rail Advisory Group is available [here](#).

The Panel for Positive Ageing, established by the Labor Government in the 2012-13 Budget, with funding of \$4.7 million over four years, is also to be abolished. Its primary functions were to raise awareness of ageing issues, improve coordination of policy across portfolios and work with the government on implementation and design of ageing policy. It was due to deliver a major report to Government early next year.

Other bodies to be abolished include the National Housing Reform Supply Council set up in 2008 by Prime Minister Rudd to ease housing shortages, and the Insurance Reform Advisory Group set up by the Hon. Bill Shorten MP following the Queensland floods.

The full list of non-statutory bodies to be abolished is as follows:

- Australian Animals Welfare Advisory Committee
- Commonwealth Firearms Advisory Council
- International Legal Services Advisory Council
- National Inter-country Adoption Advisory Council
- National Steering Committee on Corporate Wrongdoing

- Antarctic Animal Ethics Committee
- Advisory Panel on the Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula
- High Speed Rail Advisory Group
- Maritime Workforce Development Forum
- Advisory Panel on Positive Ageing
- Insurance Reform Advisory Group
- National Housing Supply Council

Non-statutory bodies to be amalgamated with another non-statutory body

The Government also plans to amalgamate four bodies with other non-statutory bodies.

The National Policy Commission on Indigenous Housing will be amalgamated with Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

Both the National Children and Family Roundtable and the Prime Minister's Council on Homelessness will be amalgamated with Social Services Ministerial Advisory Council.

Finally, the Pulp and Paper Advisory Group will now be managed by the Manufacturing Leaders Group.

Non-statutory bodies to be absorbed by portfolio departments

The Government also plans to absorb the core functions of five bodies within Commonwealth departments.

The Attorney-General's Department will take over the International Pro-Bono Advisory Group and the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council.

The Department of Employment will absorb the Centre for Workplace Leadership Advisory Group and the National Council for Education for Sustainability.

The Department of the Environment will also absorb the National Sustainability Council, which was established as an independent, expert body to provide advice on sustainability issues.