



Those supporting the minority Gillard Government demanded a raft of parliamentary reforms spelt out in a 10-page annex to their agreement to support the Government. These reforms included **the creation of the Parliamentary Budget Office, perhaps the most significant institutional reform to the Commonwealth government in the past 15 years.**


‘Gridlock’, Grattan Institute, 2020

Figure 2.1: Fewer major economic reforms have stuck since about 2000  
Major economic policy changes

	Hawke/Keating 1983–1996	Howard 1996–2007	Rudd/Gillard 2007–2013	A/T/M 2013–2021
Trade and currency	Float AS International students Tariff reductions			FTAs End auto assistance
Macro/budget policy		RBA inflation targets Balanced budget commitment	PBO	
Labour markets	Accord Enterprise Bargaining	Workplace Relations Act Skilled migration Work Choices	Fair Work Age Pension access 67	Age Pension access 70
Competition policy	Hilmer review	National Competition Policy	Demand-driven higher ed	Super fees
Privatisation	GBE reform CBA sale Elec Water Airline IPO	Telstra sale (1, 2, & 3)		Medibank sale
Regulation	Foreign bank entry Telco deregulation	Bank capital reform		
Tax	Capital Gains Tax Dividend imputation Super-annuation	GST Personal income tax cuts Company tax cut	Carbon pricing	Super tax Co tax Income tax ?
Federalism	Medicare	Federal/state financial reform	Federal/state health reform	NDIS School funding

Notes: Reforms that were not passed, or that were subsequently substantially wound back or repealed, are shown shaded out. A/T/M = Abbott/Turnbull/Morrison. FTAs = Free Trade Agreements. PBO = Parliamentary Budget Office. GBE = Government Business Enterprise. CBA = Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Airline IPO = Initial Public Offering and sale of Qantas in 1993 and 1995.

Sources: Access Economics (2019); The Economist (2011); Grattan analysis.

HIST  RY

IS GOALLING

- High quality work  94%
- High standards of expertise 93%
- Non-partisan/ independent 92%
- Important institution 92%
- Confidence in integrity 91%
- Helps improve transparency 91%
- Trusted source 89%
- Processes transparent 81%
- Helps with 'level playing field' 76% (-16%)

Good awareness of PBO  92%

Awareness and use of specific services are more mix and *there is potential to grow use*

For example...

	Used this parliament	Unaware but interested
Policy costings & budget analysis	76%	7% ↑
Post-election reports	49%	21% ↑
Online tools	38%	23% ↑



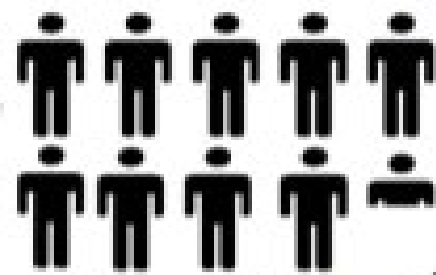
Parliamentary Budget Office

**SATISFIED**

**92%**

(Stable at -4%)

PBO Work



**75% (-25%)**

PBO Role

-  Policy costings & budget analysis 90% satisfied
-  Direct contact 96% satisfied
-  Publications (e.g. Research reports) 86% to 98% useful
-  Website 95% satisfied

**Lower performing:**

- Publications easy to find 75%
- Kept advised of request progress 58%
- Adapted to changing priorities 58%
- Clear how long it would take 66%

**Lower performing:**

- Website structured well (e.g. search and classification of reports, publications, etc) 69%
- Online data & tools easy to find 76%

Quicker and more guidance on need ('level playing field')

Role good but expand...e.g. more independence in assumptions and forecasting

Reports & info in different formats

Tailor services to me

Improve request tracking engagement

More outreach

Show me how the PBO services are relevant to and can help ME

Improve sorting and finding info on web