



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 22 September 2003

Chair: Paul Neville MP

New Inquiry

Inquiry into impact on regions of privatisation of infrastructure and government business enterprises

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is to examine the economic and social impact on regional and rural Australia of the privatisation of infrastructure and government business enterprises.

The committee will examine the benefits and disadvantages of privatisation in the rail, road, aviation, ports, power and industrial manufacturing sectors.

It will also consider:

- Ways of assisting the development of world class infrastructure;
- The role of governments and the private sector in providing regional infrastructure; and
- Ways of monitoring, evaluating and reporting on government privatisation programs.

House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair Mr Paul Neville said, "There can be both benefits and disadvantages to privatisation. It is important that appropriate processes are put in place to evaluate and report on government privatisation programs, in particular monitoring ongoing concerns such as cost effectiveness and continued standards of service delivery. This inquiry is part of that process, and will look at these issues with a focus on regional and rural communities."

As part of the inquiry, a background paper reviewing the process of privatisation has been released. The paper:

- Provides a stocktake of assets already privatised;
- Suggests a range of criteria for assessing the impacts of privatisation;
- Summarises the economic and social impacts; and
- Identifies emerging issues and the changing role of governments in infrastructure provision.

Submissions to the inquiry are being sought by Friday 14 November 2003.

For **media comment**, please contact:

Steve Gibbons, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Deputy Chair, on (03) 5443 9055

Further information, including the terms of reference, advice on making submissions and copies of the background paper, can be found at www.aph.gov.au/house_privatisation or obtained by phoning the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or emailing at trs.reps@aph.gov.au