



Productivity Commission Report on Competitive Neutrality & the NBN

The issues canvassed in the Productivity Commission report (Competitive Neutrality Complaints Office Investigation No. 14), released yesterday, were referred to in the second report of the NBN parliamentary oversight committee”, Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP said today.

“The 57-member Joint Committee of NBN will digest the report, and more than likely will seek further evidence from the Productivity Commission, as well as a response from relevant stakeholders such as the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and NBN Co,” Mr Oakeshott said.

“This is an important piece of work by the PC, and the committee will pursue the issues involved.”

Mr Oakeshott added “the Committee is alert to the issues raised and, in its own report released on 24 November 2011, I noted that:

It is understood by most that Australian telecommunications is currently not a level playing field. It is also understood this historic imbalance means decisions are being made on the front-end of this infrastructure project to eventually achieve a more competitive environment and better consumer result for the future, even if decisions may look anti-competitive in the short term. It is also understood and acknowledged that this is initially challenging – challenging for regulators like the ACCC, challenging for some existing business models like those wanting to both wholesale and retail in Greenfield sites, and challenging for those looking for investment opportunities in the new markets that are coming with the NBN rollout.”

For media comment: please contact the Chair’s Office on 0429 787 320.

The Committee’s Second report is available: by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2322 via email jcnbn@aph.gov.au or by visiting the committee’s webpage at: www.aph.gov.au/jcnbn