



Communications Experts Group Pty Ltd
ACN: 086 929 704

Phone (08) 9293 4974
Fax (08) 9293 0291

Attn. Louise Gell,
Secretary,
Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts,
Australian Senate,
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Louise,

Supplementary Submission to Inquiry

Thank you for your letter of 15 April 05 and confirmation of our attendance at the Perth hearing.

Please can you add the attached Supplementary CEG Submission to the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Dr W.B. Green
Director.

18 Yorna Road,
Kalamunda. WA 6076
PO Box 488,
Kalamunda. WA 6926

Email ceg@westnet.com.au

25 April 2005

CEG Supplementary Submission Number 1

Add to Section k) Other Changes

1 Telecom Mergers and Acquisitions

There are case studies where the major carriers have caused minor carriers to be placed into liquidation. In the ensuing sale of the assets the carriers are then able to buy the assets at a reduced price, and eliminate competition. The current Trade Practices Act does not take into account the Long Term Interest of End Users in any ACCC deliberations concerning the acquisition or merger of telecommunication assets, and this has resulted in a significant loss of competition and reduced the flow of investment funds into the Telecommunication Industry.

2 Cabling Regulation

The ACA are responsible for regulating and monitoring the cabling industry. The earlier policy requiring cabling licences worked well and delivered reasonable outcomes to the industry, both in price and quality.

Recent cost cutting exercises within ACA have led to a loss of expertise and capability to conduct audits and ensure that installations comply with mandatory standards for safety. At the same time, the drop in standards for registration of cablers has led to an increasing number of non-compliant installations. In August 2004 the ACA reported that 36% of installations they inspected were non-compliant. (See ACA Notice 72 of August 2004).

The percentage of non-compliant installations is rising due to some buildings being designed in such a manner that it is impossible to comply with mandatory safety standards. Poorly qualified or unqualified cabling contractors are continuing to install cables in these buildings.

The Act needs to be amended to allow cabling contractors to make the architects or designers jointly and severally liable for any penalties imposed by the ACA. This approach will discourage both poorly qualified cable contractors and designers from continuing their current approach to the provision of Telecom infrastructure

This amendment would also make it easier for owners or investors to claim penalties from the design team.

The Act also needs some clarification about data cabling installations being included in the category of cables connected to the Public Telecom Network.