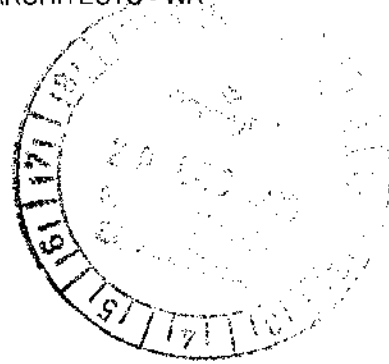


15 December 1999

Productivity Commission
Architects Inquiry
LB2, Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003



The members of the Association of Consulting Architects, Western Australia support the retention of State Architects' Boards and the introduction of a uniform act across Australia administered by State Boards.

We believe there can be no evidence of restriction to competition from existing legislation as there is no compulsion to use the services of an architect for the design of any building in Australia, although this is not the situation in many European countries.

There are tangible benefits to the community from the existing legislation and it would be surprising to learn there are any costs to the community.

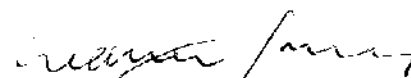
Deregulation of the architectural profession would be harmful to the promotion of better design of the built environment, the provision of architectural education to Australian and overseas students, and the export of architectural services.

When journalists commonly refer to murderers and politicians or any person they consider has planned a newsworthy achievement as "the architect", the value of architecture, which is both the art and the science of building, has to be communicated to consumers of building design.

This is made more difficult by the reliance by the majority of the home owners, because of cost, on builders and their design draftpersons. Housing is now a commodity, which largely ignores design fundamentals such as orientation, climatic conditions and functional needs of owners while indulging in inappropriate fashion such as Federation or Tuscan.

Australia as a young country does not yet have a built environment heritage or the commitment to urban design of older nations. If we are to become a clever country and improve the quality of life for all Australians, it will not be assisted by the deregulation of standards of excellence. Qualification levels need to be regularly tested to ensure they are set high enough.

Yours sincerely


WARREN JONES
President
Association Consulting Architects, Western Australia