



Blackall Shire Council

Telephone: (076) 57 4222
Facsimile: (076) 57 4726

6 Coronation Drive, Blackall
P.O. Box 21, Blackall, Qld. 4472

ACG:Tmg
Enquiries: Tony Gallwey

July 8, 1999

Mr Ernie Bridge OAM JP MLA
President
Watering Australia Foundation
PO Box 1053
WEST PERTH WA 6872

Dear Sir,

RE: PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION ENQUIRY HEARING, TOWNSVILLE 14/7/99

Thank you for your invitation for a representative of Council to attend the above hearing in Townsville on Wednesday 14 July, 1999 in support of the Foundation's submission on the impact of Competition Policy reforms on Rural and Regional Australia.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for a Council representative to attend because there is a Council Meeting scheduled on that day.

However, please be assured that Council fully and wholeheartedly supports the views, and issues contained in the submission put forward by the Foundation, and you are to be congratulated for your time, effort and persistence in trying to get through to the academics and bureaucrats that there are genuine concerns and problems in rural areas with Competition Policy.

As I advised you on the phone, I attended an earlier hearing held in Longreach by the Commission as part of their enquiries prior to the Draft Report. I must say I wondered after the event why I bothered, as it seemed to me that the visit was a token gesture, and the Commissioners "came, listened and ignored". I also think that some people come to the bush with preconceived ideas, and seem reluctant to listen to what we have to say. One could be forgiven for thinking that such people think that we in the bush are semi-literate ingrates who don't appreciate what wonderful things National Competition Policy is doing for us.

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Mr Ernie Bridge OAM JP MLA

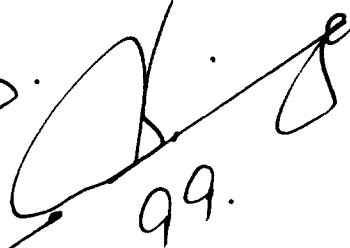
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Again I am sorry we will not have a representative in Townsville on Wednesday, and I wish you and the Foundation the best of luck. You might also like to tell the hearing that rural Queenslanders are not, contrary to popular belief, educationally challenged.

Yours faithfully,



A C Gallwey
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NOTED.

8. 7. 99.