

## **Impact of Competition Policy on Rural and Regional Australia.**

- **Submission Annette Mc Gready JP**
- **I write as a private individual who is concerned for Australia's future. I believe we have resources in all areas of our Nation that are under utilised, not the least being our well educated population. If we as a small world population are to find a desirable place in the globalised community changes in our management practices and better utilisation of all our resources are essential.**
- **The National Competition Policy is a means by which Australian Government instrumentalities can re-assess management processes, update technology and put in place effective standards of accountability and product/service quality assessment.**

**Benchmarking is an example of one of these processes**
- **Flexibility of approach to change is essential because of Australia's diversity of environment, distances to be travelled and relatively low populations in highly economically productive areas. No part of the Australian society is not linked to, or interdependent on the whole; therefore what may be politically expedient is no longer tenable.**
- **A high standard of communications, transport, power and water infrastructure is essential for Australia's future in the globalised world society. Local Government needs adequate recognition for its contribution and its needs in providing and maintaining the basic infrastructure that services all economic activity.**
- **The relatively small Australian Population and the size of the Australian Economy means that Australia has to be pro-active in making its place in the world market. For this to happen all aspects of our economic and social structures have to be assessed and reformed where necessary.**
- **Skills training will be essential to maintain this policy. Many of the present consultants, used in these areas have been trained through the public service, which will no longer has this role, due to its privatisation. We have to acknowledge the urgency of this matter of training whatever results from the competitive policy reforms.**
- **In essence the National Competition Policy addresses the necessary changes to enable improvement in planning ,management and productivity. The need for development of new age management skills in those charged with coping with this change is essential.**

- **Full accountability of all aspects of the task to be tendered and sound skills in the tender preparation, with the consequent acceptance of tenders not just on price, but on understanding of management skills, total accountability and quality of work guaranteed. Long Term sustainability of the system will depend on total openness in these processes and training of those involved.**
- **The policy as seems to be operating at this time, in particular with some emphasis on economy of scale could result in new monopolies for some essential services, resulting in inefficiencies and rising costs in a non inflationary climate. This is not desirable if we are to be in keeping with the global trend toward sustainability of quality and supply to the consumer.**
- **I do see the National Competition Policy giving Australia a great opportunity to review management, create a more open, accountable means to provide public services with sound technology and high quality product. The approach has to be holistic in manner with full consideration for the needs of our small national population and widely diverse economy. The Social viability of our Australian community is vital to the sustainability of our National wellbeing in the larger Global entity.**

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*A M M Gready*