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Ian Dixon

Impact of Competition Policy Reforms
Inquiry
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

To Whom It May Concern

The Small Business Advisory Council was established by the South Australian Government in 1995 to provide direct policy advice on issues of importance to the State's small business community. The Council has held a belief for some time that the application of the National Competition Policy has had severe implications for small businesses in regional Australia.

The Small Business Advisory Council is specifically concerned with the following aspects of the implementation of National Competition Policy in rural South Australia:

- The current speed with which the principles of the policy have been implemented. To date, implementation has occurred too quickly, thus not providing small businesses with adequate time to adjust. This is of particular importance to rural small businesses who are facing a range of additional pressures, all significantly impacting on their profitability.
- In developing and implementing the policy, there has been insufficient consultation and communication with small business. Small businesses do not have the time available to keep informed of policy changes and how they affect their business.

The Small Business Advisory Council is keen to consider the outcomes of the review process in your draft report to be released in March of 1999. The Council would

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SA)

C/- Department of Industry & Trade
GPO Box 1264, Adelaide SA 5001

appreciate being informed of the progress in developing the draft report and requests a copy for comment when it is released.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Laundy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DENNIS LAUNDY
CHAIRMAN

25 / 11 / 98