

Date 18 September 1998  
Contact Mr P E Stevens  
Location Nerang Office  
Telephone (07) 5582 8202  
Your Reference  
Our Reference 15/1/2(P10)

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Gold Coast City Council  
*City of Vision*

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Ms Jill Irvine  
Productivity Commission  
P O Box 80  
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Ms Irvine,

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

Please find attached Gold Coast City Council's Registration of Interest for being kept updated on the impact of Competition Policy Reforms Inquiry.

The Gold Coast City Council is the second largest local government in Australia by budget and sixth largest City in Australia by population. We have therefore had difficulty in identifying the Gold Coast City Council as a regional local government. However for the purposes of assisting you with your Inquiry paper, please find following a number of key issues pertinent to the implementation of National Competition Policy from Gold Coast City Council's perspective.

- The issues of the tax equivalent regime are still unresolved in terms of assuring Council's that there will be no disadvantage and that tax expenditure paid through the tax equivalent regime, will be returned to the parent Council.
- Accounting requirements - in terms of trying to establish a consistent methodologies and deadlines
- Major challenges have been experienced in meeting the implementation deadlines given that not all Councils are in the same position. Several Councils within Queensland have amalgamated.


It is also been difficult implementing reforms given the lack of coordination, particularly with defining certain issues and assigning valuation methodologies. An example of this is with the Community Service Obligations. There is no consistent definition within Australia and methodologies for valuing CSOs are not consistent giving scope for local governments to come up with different valuation methodologies and therefore increased scrutiny given the CSO process is based on transparency.

*Our Vision ... is to ensure our City is the premier place to live, work and play.*

At this stage it is too early to assess the impact of NCP reforms. There are some activities being driven by other reforms such as Private Certification which when combined with a reform such as Full Cost Pricing create a number of issues to be resolved by local governments, particularly in relation to maintaining a level playing field and ensuring that regulatory functions are removed from competitive functions. One of the biggest challenges for activities in such direct competition is maintaining efficient allocation of resources within Council.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate contacting Council's NCP Coordinator, Toni Jensen on (07) 5582 8311.

Yours faithfully



Paul Stevens  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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