

Impact of Competition Policy Reforms Inquiry
Productivity Commission
P.O. Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Commissioners,

As a city dweller I write to urge you to place the highest priority on the social consequences of your recommendations re the impact of Competition Policy on rural and regional Australia.

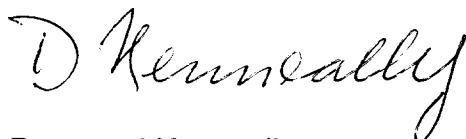
The report, the 'State of the Regions,' released last November by the Regional Cooperation and Development forum (prepared by Dr. Peter Brain from the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research) highlights the growing inequality in employment, income and investment between regions. This report argues that there is a looming crisis for Australia's rural regions.

Dr. Brain said the report showed that many regions have not shared in the benefits of the higher economic growth of recent years. This of course helps to sustain the tragic migration from 'the bush' to our already grossly overcrowded cities.

The latest example of the ultimately hollow triumph of sectional economics over the badly needed commitment to a national policy of decentralisation is the proposal to close regional wool sales and transfer them to Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle!

Australia desperately needs a growing and vibrant rural population and economy. Please keep these objectives in the forefront of your considerations.

Yours Sincerely,



Desmond Kenneally
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Essendon, 3040