

[Received by email 24/8/06]

Response to Productivity Commission's Draft Report on NATA

Members of the Productivity Commission,

I am heartened by most of the conclusions in your "Draft Report on Standard Setting and Laboratory Accreditation (July 2006)" as concerns the activities of NATA. However, I am somewhat worried by one aspect, namely the apparent lack of understanding of the role of NATA, with respect to ILAC and APLAC - the International and Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Committees.

The Australian Institute of Physics, which I represent on the NATA Council, is very well aware of HIDDEN BARRIERS TO TRADE (for example via non-recognition of standards of calibration and measurement) and the important role that NATA representatives play in combating this and other such undesirable practices.

We are of the opinion that a government committed to free trade should appreciate this and support NATA fully in its endeavours and in its participation in ILAC and APLAC.

I hope that this comment will be of use in your deliberations

Yours sincerely,

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