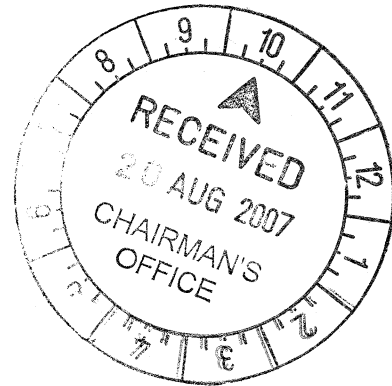




THE HONOURABLE CHRIS PEARCE MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer
Federal Member for Aston

14 AUG 2007

Mr G Banks
Chairman
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616



Dear Mr Banks

Thank you for your letter of 18 July 2007 to the Treasurer seeking an extension to the reporting date for the Productivity Commission inquiry into Australia's consumer policy framework. Your letter has been referred to me as I have portfolio responsibility for consumer affairs.

I understand that the Commission has engaged in extensive consultation with a range of interest groups, and that several key submissions have only recently been lodged with the Commission. I therefore agree to the extension requested. The Commission should now report to the Government by 28 February 2008.

As with all Commission inquiries, I anticipate that the report will include information on the costs and benefits of the Commission's recommendations. I consider that the costs and benefits of recommended options should be quantified as much as possible as it assists governments to undertake regulatory impact assessments and implement the recommendations in a timely fashion.

I look forward to receiving a copy of the draft report.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS PEARCE