

Dr. D. Roberson
Productivity Commission in Australia
Collins Street East LB2
Vic 8003 Australia

Dear Sir:

In connection with the inquiry about radio communications I noticed from the comments on your draft report as published on www.aussiewinlink.org that authorities in Australia have reservations about allowing its hams to enter the 21st century. The Committee might well be interested to know that there is an International Amateur Radio Union. Below is an extract from the American Radio Relay League's publication, QST of April 2002, about World Amateur Radio Day.

"World Amateur Radio Day Celebrates Amateurs'
Continuing Innovation in
Communication Technology

Amid the much-publicized commercial successes and failures in the telecommunications industry it is easy to overlook the fact that radio amateurs continue to be an important source of innovation in communication technology.

A century has passed since Marconi spanned the Atlantic and excited the imaginations of the first generation of amateur wireless experimenters. Amateurs were the first to discover and to exploit the remarkable properties of the ionosphere that permit worldwide communication with less power than

it takes to illuminate a light bulb. They were the first to make widespread use of single-sideband voice communication to conserve power and precious radio spectrum. Amateurs applied microprocessors to data communication, popularizing packet radio and developing protocols that are now in widespread use in public safety and other services.

As we enter radio's second century, amateurs continue to lead the way in numerous areas.

Digital HF Radio: Radio amateurs are the leading developers of new digital techniques for high-frequency (HF) data and text communication. For example, Pactor combines the strengths of packet radio and the mode known commercially as SITOR to offer reliable and essentially error-free data communication. Disaster relief agencies have adopted it for use from remote locations where no telecommunications infrastructure is available."

As you should have learned from the contributions made to the review, WinLink is a digital HF communications system for people in remote areas that uses Pactor as the protocol for error-free transmission of information. Both WinLink and Pactor were developed by radio amateurs. I am sure that the World Amateur Radio community would like Australian hams to have the opportunity to join them in the 21st century.

Please, take this email message as a submission to your inquiry.

73,

Rudolf Kruggel HS0/DL1ZAV