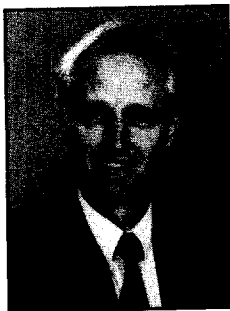


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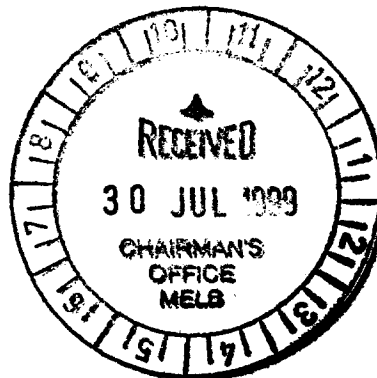


KERRY BARTLETT M.P.
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

26 July 1999

The Chairman
Productivity Commission
Level 28, Telstra Tower
35 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



cc: Prof. Snape

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been advised that the Productivity Commission has been asked by the Federal Government to hold an inquiry into broadcasting in order to advise the Government in ways to improve competition, efficiency and service to consumers.

In considering the social economic and cultural dimension of public interest, I urge that consideration be given to the needs of Western Sydney. The Western Sydney region is a vibrant productive and culturally diverse region with a population approaching two million with a diverse range of economic enterprise and a strong sense of identity. However, it lacks the media identification which many other regions have. Whilst the region is served by two commercial radio stations and a series of local newspapers, it lacks a television station. Yet other regions of smaller population do have their own commercial television stations.

In consideration of the possible issuance of a fourth television licence, a number of local councils have requested that licensing provision require that it serve the needs of Western Sydney. This is a request that I strongly endorse. A television station servicing the needs of the West would enrich the social and cultural life of Western Sydney and enhance its economic growth. The benefits to the region would be substantial with subsequent benefits flowing to the whole of the Sydney region.

I urge, therefore, that in conducting this inquiry, the Productivity Commission gives consideration to this proposal.

Yours sincerely

KERRY BARTLETT MP
MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE

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