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23 December, 1999

Mr Bruce Phillips
 Productivity Commission
 Level 28
 35 Collins Street
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Dear Mr Phillips

I write in relation to your facsimile of 8 December, 1999 regarding the Productivity Commission's investigations into the Broadcasting Services Act of 1992 and in particular the anti-siphoning provisions.

The National Rugby League has studied the submission of the AFL in relation to the anti-siphoning rules and in principle agrees with the views of their submission.

The NRL is of the view that we are in the best position to identify the needs of our respective stakeholders in all of our key markets. The artificial regulatory restrictions of the current regime creates unnecessary administrative costs, limits the opportunities for expansion of all sports and denies revenue opportunities. Most importantly, it limits the options available to the viewing public.

In essence, our view is that the current regime limits choice for the sporting public. In an effort to ensure critical key events remained on free to air TV, the current regime has inadvertently resulted in less sport being made available to the viewing public.

In relation to datacasting services, the NRL is currently working through its position. We agree there is tremendous opportunity through datacasting to offer greater choice for fans and we are currently working through the options available to us. We do however re-state a key premise of the AFL namely, unnecessary restrictions on sports do inhibit the opportunity for sports to create revenue and in turn deliver better services to the sporting public.

I trust this assists the Productivity Commission in its deliberations.

Sincerely

David Moffett
 Chief Executive Officer