

# Inquiry into the competitive neutrality of Australia’s national broadcasters

## Submission – David Bruce-Steer (21 June 2018)

### Question 8: Considering the commercial activities of the national broadcasters (e.g. where they are selling or purchasing goods and services), is there evidence that they have taken undue advantage of their government ownership, to the detriment of competitive outcomes?

No

The ABC presents news for all Australians without the bias of advertisements

### Question 9: What is the differential impact of regulation on commercial and national broadcasters, and is there evidence of consequent adverse impacts on competition and outcomes?

No evidence as far as I know of adverse impacts on competition

### Question 10: Is the reporting and accountability by the national broadcasters on their best endeavours to observe competitive neutrality adequate?

Yes

Question 11: Are you aware of any specific instances where the ABC or SBS may have received any other competitive advantage, due to their public ownership, to the detriment of a private competitor?

No specific instances

### Question 12: The SBS Charter requires it to take into account the activities of the ABC and community television on radio and television. In the context of the competitive neutrality principles how in your view, is the SBS complying with this requirement? From your perspective does it adequately cover the activities of the SBS?

### Yes the requirements of the Charter are complied with by SBS

### Question 13: From your perspective do the national broadcasters seek a balance between competing in the market and complementing the market? Is that balance the same for traditional broadcasting and for new digital platforms?

### In my opinion the ABC does not consciously compete with the market. It complies with the ABC Charter to provide in essence news and information to all Australians living in all parts of Australia.

### It does have the remit to use modern technologies to further this objective.

### Question 14: Do you have comment on these guiding principles?

The ABC is national institution paid for by all Australians. It provides a balanced viewpoint on news and events untainted by the pressure of the views of advertisers.

I believe it is doing its job well, it is held in high esteem by most thinking Australians, the current regulation is sufficient.