

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

## Submission – Judith Brett (4 May 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?

### 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?

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

### 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?

### 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?

### 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?

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

I find the whole exercise question begging. The public broadcasters are not primarily commercial enterprises the main purpose of which it so make money/a profit/take market share etc. They are institutions which contribute to public knowledge and debate, develop and disseminate Australia's cultural resources and generally contribute to the good of our Commonwealth. So I am unable to answer any of the above questions. In so far as they sell some products - eg ABC books of DVDs - these are marginal to their main purpose.