

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

## Submission – Judith Dodd (18 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?

### 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 regard this enquiry as vexatious, instigated by the Minister of Communications in conjunction with Senator Pauline Hanson under false pretences. The premise that the ABC has an unfair advantage in the marketplace is false, as the ABC exists to provide a SERVICE to taxpayers whilst commercial media exists to make a PROFIT. How can the two be compared?? A public broadcaster has a charter to comply with, which ensures its impartiality, quality of service, independence, and diversity; commercial broadcasters have a totally different raison d'etre. The sooner politicians cease interfering in the workings of the ABC the better, and I consider this enquiry one such interference. The ABC exists to serve the community, businesses exist to boost their profits, so how can we argue over net neutrality when the national interest is only being served by one of the two parties in question?? It makes no sense whatsoever. I would suggest the Minister and the Senator get back to the business of serving the nation instead of serving the interests of the business community and stop wasting taxpayers' money. Save our ABC from ongoing attacks and leave it do its job. Thankyou.