

National Competition Council

National Competition Policy
and Related Reforms

First Tranche Assessment

Volume Two:
Commonwealth, State and Territory
First Tranche
Progress Reports

April 1999

Commonwealth of Australia 1999

ISBN 0 642 26172 5

This work is copyright. Apart from any use permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without the prior written permission of AusInfo. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be directed to the Manager, Legislative Services, AusInfo, GPO Box 84, Canberra ACT 2601.

National Competition Council
Level 12 Casselden Place
2 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Telephone (03) 9285 7474
Facsimile (03) 9285 7477
Email info@ncc.gov.au
Website <http://www.ncc.gov.au>

Contents

Introduction	1
Commonwealth	3
1997 Progress Report	5
New South Wales	55
1997 Progress Report	57
1998 Supplementary Information	183
Victoria.....	195
1997 Progress Report	197
1998 Supplementary Information	265
Queensland	277
1997 Progress Report	279
1998 Supplementary Information	343
Western Australia.....	355
1997 Progress Report	357
1998 Progress Report	407
South Australia	435
1997 Progress Report	437
1998 Supplementary Information	485

Tasmania	533
1997 Progress Report	535
1998 Supplementary Information	603
Australian Capital Territory	611
1997 Progress Report	613
1998 Supplementary Information	665
Northern Territory	671
1997 Progress Report	673

Introduction

The Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments signed three intergovernmental competition policy agreements at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in April 1995. The three agreements are reproduced in the National Competition Council's publication, *Compendium of National Competition Policy Agreements* (June 1998).

The agreements set out governments' commitments to a range of pro-competitive reforms called the National Competition Policy (NCP) and related reforms. One of the agreements, the Competition Principles Agreement (CPA), obliges governments to, among other things, systematically review all legislation restricting competition over the period to the year 2000 and introduce competitive neutrality principles, where appropriate, to significant government businesses.

Under the CPA, governments report annually on their progress with reviewing restrictive legislation and introducing competitive neutrality, and the Council is required to publish a document consolidating governments' legislation review reports. State and Territory Governments have undertaken to report more widely than required by the CPA, by outlining their progress against the entire NCP and related reform package. States and Territories published their first progress reports in March 1997.

As part of the NCP process, the Commonwealth provides financial transfers to the States and Territories following assessment by the Council that progress against reform obligations is satisfactory. The Council made its first tranche recommendations to the Commonwealth Treasurer in June 1997.¹ As part of that

1 The remaining assessments must be conducted prior to July 1999 and July 2001.

assessment, the Council identified several areas where progress had not met expectations. Since then, the States and Territories have addressed these matters and provided supplementary reports covering progress. The Council provided a supplementary assessment on these matters to the Commonwealth Treasurer in June 1998.

The material relating to the Council's 1997 assessment is published in two documents.

Volume One documents in full the Council's first tranche assessment of reform progress, comprising assessment of State and Territory performance (including on matters identified in June 1997 as requiring further work) and assessment of the Commonwealth Government's performance against its NCP obligations.

Volume Two (this document) consolidates State and Territory Governments' first (1997) progress reports and information provided in 1998 for the supplementary assessment.² Most States and Territories provided information for the supplementary assessment separately from their 1998 progress reports. Where States provided information covering matters relevant to the supplementary assessment as part of their 1998 progress reports, only those sections containing information relevant to the supplementary assessment are reproduced here. The complete set of jurisdictions' 1998 progress reports will be reproduced by the Council at a later date. Volume Two also includes the Commonwealth Government's reports on legislation review and competitive neutrality.

2 The Northern Territory was not required to provide information for the supplementary assessment in 1998.