

Reference number CR145

Contact name
Catherine Collins
Is your submission confidential?
No
Submission type
Have Your Say
What should be the priorities for a competition policy reform agenda to ensure that efficient businesses, large or small, can compete effectively and drive growth in productivity and living standards?
no answer
Are there unwarranted regulatory impediments to competition in any sector in Australia that should be removed or altered?
<p>YES - payroll tax has not been indexed. It should be either abolished or indexed as it is very anti-competative.</p> <p>This is particularly evident in trade businesses with a large wages-component such as cleaning, plumbing, etc.</p> <p>It makes it very difficult for small-med businesses in these areas to employ staff and remain competitive as the cost for their services jumps significantly when the (low) payroll tax threshold is reached. Clients are often cost driven in these trade areas and the extra cost of payroll tax is a significant barrier to winning new work.</p> <p>This acts as a barrier to employing staff, growing the business, and generally thriving because competitors who are either small enough to get under the threshold, or large enough to have economies of scale, have a significant commercial advantage.</p>
Are government-provided goods and services delivered in a manner conducive to competition, while meeting other policy objectives?
<p>NO - tender documents for government contracts are unnecessarily large and complex.</p> <p>This makes it very difficult for small-med businesses to respond to a govt tender.</p> <p>Responding takes 20+ hours to complete. Large businesses with dedicated Business Development Officers have an advantage.</p> <p>This is particularly sad for regional / rural Australia as the local businesses which are best suited to respond to local tenders tend to be small or medium. Local businesses in regional/rural Australia are often unable to respond to local government contracts simply due to the burden of the paperwork involved. City-based businesses take the work and the proffits out of the area.</p> <p>Suggestion: to have a central "govt contract registration process" which business can apply for once and then there after simply say "refer to" each time they want to apply for a govt tender.</p>
Is there a need for further competition-related reform in infrastructure sectors with a history of heavy government involvement (such as the water, energy and transport sectors)?
no answer
Would there be a public benefit in encouraging greater competition and choice in sectors with substantial government participation (including education, health and disability care and support)?
no answer
Are the current competition laws working effectively to promote competitive markets, given increasing globalisation, changing market and social structures, and technological change?
no answer
Are competition-related institutions functioning effectively and promoting efficient outcomes for consumers and the maximum scope for industry participation?
NO - the protection for consumers under the law is still not aood enough in the domestic building sector. I

have many complaints in this area but an obvious disadvantage is that builders have tax deductible legal fees while home owners do not. etc etc
Suggestion: all legal fees for all companies and individuals should be the same - ie all tax deductible or none tax deductible.

What institutional arrangements would best support a self-sustaining process for continual competition policy reform and review?

no answer