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Real Estate Institute of Australia

20 .August 2003

Mr Tony Hinton
Commissioner
Review of Mutual Recognition
Productivity Commission
PO **Box** 80
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Dear Mr Hinton

REVIEW OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) provided a submission dated 14 April 2003 to the review. The REIA has received your draft report and having read the report, I attended the roundtable discussions that you chaired at the Productivity Commission on 11 August.

Comments on the draft report are as follows:

- There are a number of generic statements which are supported by the REIA, e.g. "mutual recognition is one of a number of instruments available to governments to reduce regulatory impediments to economic integration across jurisdictions (Page XV)" and "Australian occupational registration authorities should continue to consider developing national registration systems where the benefits justify the costs (Page XXVIII)". It is also encouraging to read that the report advocates a link between professional standards, and some degree of 'current competency' as a requirement for registration.

- However, the report does make generic statements without specific reference to the practice of real estate across Australia. Whilst it is noted that the Commonwealth Government does not propose to introduce Commonwealth legislation, it is trying to give effect to nation-wide consistency through the harmonisation of States legislation by awareness and persuasion. This report will help to achieve that outcome.

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- To this end, it is suggested that the final report should specifically identify the real estate industry as a profession for harmonisation, in order to encourage regulators to do this. The REIA is already facilitating harmonisation of the States legislation on real estate practice through the Ministerial Council for Consumer Affairs and the Standing Committee of Officials for Consumer Affairs, and the Productivity Commission report will support our approach.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Stevens
Chief Executive Officer
Real Estate Institute of Australia