



Australian National
Retailers Association
ABN 78 118 494 643

8/16 Bougainville Street
Manuka ACT 2603

Tel +61 2 6260 7710
Fax +61 2 6260 7705

3 Spring Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Tel +61 2 8249 4520
Fax +61 2 8249 4914

admin@anra.com.au

30 March, 2011

Business Regulation Benchmarking
Productivity Commission
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE: Regulation Benchmarking Study: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessments

The Australian National Retailers Association (ANRA) appreciates the opportunity to be part of the Productivity Commission's benchmarking study into planning, zoning and development assessments.

ANRA's initial submission focused on business compliance costs, competition and city planning, as these are the main means by which retailers interact with the planning system. It is pleasing to note that many of the issues raised in our submission, and those of our individual members, were included by the Productivity Commission in its draft report.

We have no specific comments on the content of the report in the key areas for retailers, but would suggest that the complexity and breadth of the issues covered means a summary of the main benchmarking findings would be useful.

ANRA agrees with the reluctance of the Productivity Commission to develop 'league tables' that rank the planning systems of each state. The findings of the report clearly show that no state has the perfect planning system and no state has a completely unworkable system.

Nevertheless, it would be useful to have a summary of the overall characteristics that the Productivity Commission believes all states should be working towards to achieve a best-practice planning system.

The inclusion of such a best-practice summary in the report would be particularly timely for businesses and households in NSW, where the new Government intends to review the State's planning laws. This major review will be an opportunity for the NSW planning system to be re-designed in line with the Productivity Commission's recommendations of a best-practice planning system.

Should you require any further assistance from ANRA for this benchmarking study, please contact Mr Russell Goss, Policy Manager, on (02) 8249 4520 or at rgoss@anra.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margy Osmond", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Margy Osmond
Chief Executive Officer