

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

## Submission – Alan Wardrop (21 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?

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### 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?

### The national broadcasters are disadvantaged in that if the government does not like particular topics, facts or opinions being discussed it will coerce them into compliance by threat of funding control.

### Question 10: Is the reporting and accountability by the national broadcasters on their best endeavours to observe competitive neutrality adequate?

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### 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?

### No

### 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?

### In my view SBS is complying with this requirement. It's programming and reporting is almost entirely related to small community segments, foreign languages and international news in far greater depth than other broadcasters.

### 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?

### My experience of iview and the ABC website is that they extend the programming balance naturally into the digital platform.

### Question 14: Do you have comment on these guiding principles?

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