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From: s.22
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2011 1:16 PM
To: s.22
Subject: FW: Draft discussion paper for review into retail price controls - for comment [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE]

Security Classification:
IN-CONFIDENCE

s.22 FYI we provided input to the pricing review paper that Joe Sheehan's area has developed.

From: McIntyre, Duncan
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2011 12:30 PM
To: Sheehan, Joseph
Cc: s.22
Subject: RE: Draft discussion paper for review into retail price controls - for comment [SEC=IN-CONFIDENCE]

Joe

Our comments below. Happy to discuss.

Duncan

RETAIL PRICE CONTROLS REVIEW – DISCUSSION PAPER – CONSUMER POLICY AND POST BRANCH COMMENTS JULY 2011

1. The paper should reference the government's commitment, in the NBN Progress Update issued December 2010, to the continued availability of voice only services for those who need it at no greater price than what they currently pay. This seems to be a relevant consideration in the ongoing provision of voice services.
2. The paper should seek views on what relative form a low-income access service could take in an NBN environment compared to basic voice packages currently offered by Telstra. It will be difficult for respondents to comment on who should provide a low income access service and its funding arrangements without providing the policy rationale (as identified in point #1) or the opportunity to comment on the relative scope that a low income access product might have through the NBN.

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4. The paper flags the possible ongoing role of LIMAC, however, it may be more appropriate to note that the role of providing advice to carriage service providers on products and services designed for low-income consumers could be fulfilled by a similar body, rather than by LIMAC in its current form.
5. In relation to low income measures a further consideration is whether there should continue to be a focus on fixed line services. It may be appropriate for the paper to note the increase in availability

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of affordable mobile phone packages, as well as the growing importance of internet connections, including for people on low incomes.

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