



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS

MEDIA RELEASE

Advisory Council Meets to Discuss Reform Agenda

7 March 2014

An industry advisory council today met to identify key priorities for the Government's deregulatory agenda, ahead of the upcoming Repeal Day on March 19.

The media and telecommunications industries are some of the most heavily regulated sectors in the economy.

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Communications (MACC) is an initiative of the Government to get an industry perspective on key areas for reform and deregulation, to boost productivity and reduce the cost of doing business.

Some of the initial proposals for the Council's agenda have been posted online and are available at: <http://www.communications.gov.au/deregulation>

The Council was established as part of the Government's commitment to cut the cost of regulation to the economy by \$1 billion a year.

Members of the Council welcomed the Government's move to free business from the burden of unnecessary and duplicative regulation, the first tranche of which will occur on the upcoming Repeal Day on 19 March before a broader deregulation process throughout 2014.

The discussions went beyond removing red tape and regulation and covered how industry and government working together can provide greater leadership for Australian innovation particularly in the digital domain.

The Coalition is committed to lowering the cost of business, reducing red tape and enhancing productivity and innovation while ensuring that consumer safeguards are kept in place.

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MACC Terms of Reference:

In its *Boost Productivity and Reduce Regulation* election commitment, the Government agreed to new processes and arrangements to deliver on its target of reducing regulatory costs to industry, not-for profits and individuals by \$1 billion per annum.

The Minister will establish and chair a Ministerial Advisory Council on Communications (MACC) to provide advice on opportunities for regulatory cost reduction in the Communications portfolio. The Minister for Communications will be assisted in delivering on the Government's agenda by his Parliamentary Secretary who will be the Deputy Chair of the MACC.

Role: The MACC will provide advice to the Minister for Communications on opportunities to reduce red and green tape within the Minister's portfolio, as well as provide a broader consultation mechanism on policy matters

Scope: The MACC can consider and provide advice to the Minister on matters pertaining to the digital economy, broadcasting, telecommunications, radiocommunications or any other matters considered to be within the Communications portfolio. However, the MACC will not consider issues which are subject to separate review processes, such as the NBN independent cost analysis and regulatory review, and those to be considered by the soon-to-be-established ICT Advisory Board.

The MACC may also provide advice on the institutional arrangements within the portfolio for the making and administration of regulation. This may include advice on the roles and responsibilities of portfolio bodies—the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (telecommunications only) and the Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency.

Tasks: The MACC will provide advice to the Minister for Communications on potential targets for regulatory reform, including:

- areas of out-dated and inefficient regulation, excessive regulation and unnecessarily high regulatory and compliance costs;
- expected priorities for, and impacts of, regulatory reform proposals;
- expert assessments of the reasonableness of costs claimed by industry of various regulatory measures;
- feedback on the progress of regulatory reform within the portfolio; and
- institutional arrangements within the portfolio.

The MACC may provide advice on broader policy issues relevant to the portfolio at the request of the Minister.



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The MACC

Chair:

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Communications

Deputy Chair:

The Hon Paul Fletcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications

Members:

Ian Audsley, Chief Executive Officer, Prime Media Group

Inaki Berroeta, Chief Executive Officer, Vodafone Australia

Kevin Blyton, Managing Director, Capital Radio Network

David Buckingham, Acting CEO, iiNet Limited

Julian Clarke, Chief Executive Officer, News Corp Australia

Michael Ebeid, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director SBS Corporation

Alistair Feehan, Chief Executive Officer, Imparja Television

Richard Freudenstein, Chief Executive Officer, Foxtel

David Gyngell, Chief Executive Officer, Nine Entertainment Co

Rhys Holleran, Chief Executive Officer, Southern Cross Austereo

Greg Hywood, Chief Executive Officer, Fairfax Media

Andrew Lancaster, CEO WIN Corporation

Scott Lorson, Chief Executive, Fetch TV

Hamish McLennan, Chief Executive Officer, Ten Network Holdings Ltd

Bill Morrow, Chief Executive Officer, NBN Co Limited

Catherine O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Nova Entertainment

Paul O'Sullivan, a/g Chief Country Officer, Australia, SingTel

Ted Pretty, Group Managing Director, Hills Holdings

Mark Scott, Managing Director, ABC

David Spence, Non-Executive Director, SAI Global Limited

James Spenceley, Chief Executive Officer, Vocus Communications

David Thodey, Chief Executive Officer, Telstra Corporation Limited

David Tudehope, Chief Executive Officer, Macquarie Telecom

Tim Worner, Chief Executive Officer, Seven West Media Limited

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