



**Hon. Merri Rose MP**  
Member for Currumbin



**Queensland  
Government**

**Minister for Tourism and Racing and  
Minister for Fair Trading**

28 AUG 2003

Ms Jennifer McNeill  
Commissioner  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

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**MINISTERIAL  
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Dear Ms McNeill

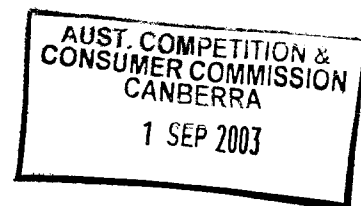
I refer to your letter of 11 August 2003 seeking submissions in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (the ACCC) draft determination in respect of applications for authorisation numbers A30224 and A30225 in relation to EFTPOS interchange fees. Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of my reply to Mr Tim Grimwade, General Manager, Adjudication Branch of the ACCC.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**Hon. Merri Rose MP**  
**Minister for Tourism and Racing and**  
**Minister for Fair Trading**

Enclosure



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Mr Tim Grimwade  
General Manager  
Adjudication Branch  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
PO Box 1199  
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Mr Grimwade

I refer to Ms Jennifer McNeill's letter of 11 August 2003 seeking submissions in response to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (the ACCC) draft determination in respect of applications for authorisation numbers A30224 and A30225 in relation to EFTPOS interchange fees, and in relation to the EFTPOS access reform principles and the prospects of a commitment to these principles in accordance with the Reserve Bank's (the RB) proposed timetable.

I note the Commission's concern that the current proposal only addresses one element of reform, that is, to EFTPOS interchange fees with the potential only to result in public benefits. The Commission considers public benefits are more likely with suitable access reform to promote competition.

As I have indicated previously, the Office of Fair Trading is particularly concerned about any arrangements which may lead to cost increases to consumers. In principle, more competition should lead to cost reductions being passed on to consumers.

I am happy to support the basic principles for developing a framework for fair and open access to the EFTPOS network as proposed by the RB. I have no specific comment to make in relation to the proposed timetable other than to say that the sooner the issue of access reform is addressed to the satisfaction of the Commission the sooner consumers are likely to benefit from those reforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Commission's draft determination and the RB's basic principles for developing a framework for fair and open access to the EFTPOS network.

Yours sincerely

**Hon. Merri Rose MP**  
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