



Australian Government
**Department of Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts**



Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Ms Gell

***Inquiry into the provisions of the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment
(Regular Reviews and Other Measures) Bill 2005***

On 15 April 2005, you wrote to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts on the provisions of the Bill that deal with the membership of the Regional Telecommunication Review Committee (RTIRC).

The Committee requested further information on whether the Bill should provide for the renewal of RTIRC membership or whether the existing mechanisms for the appointment of members are adequate for this purpose.

Proposed section 158U of the *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*, when read with subsection 33(4A) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, will allow the Minister to re-appoint an RTIRC member for a further period of up to 5 years. After the expiration of that further period, the Minister would be able to re-appoint the member for a further period of up to 5 years (and further re-appointments would be possible after the expiration of that period).

Subsection 33(4A) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* provides that in any Act, 'appoint' includes 're-appoint'.

Yours sincerely

Chris Cheah
Chief General Manager, Telecommunications
Department of Communications,
Information Technology and the Arts

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