
Guidance and information

New draft on mobile termination services

The Commission has determined a draft view on wholesale GSM (global system for mobile communications) mobile termination services; that wholesale GSM mobile termination services should be regulated less extensively than fixed line services. However, it believes a case exists for some intervention in the mobile market.

The draft report proposes that a pricing rule be established that ensures the prices of wholesale GSM mobile termination services decrease at the same rate as GSM retail prices.

While the pricing principles only apply to wholesale GSM mobile termination services, the Commission intends to consider whether they should also apply to other newer mobile networks such as CDMA (code division multiple access) services. Commission Chairman, Professor Allan Fels, stated that:

It also intends to monitor developments in the mobile services market to ensure that the benefits of an increasingly competitive retail element are passed on through lower prices for fixed-to-mobile calls.

The draft report is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.accc.gov.au>.

ACCC enters three-way cooperation

In October 2000 the Commission entered into its first tripartite cooperation arrangement with the Canadian Competition Bureau and the New Zealand Commerce Commission.

The arrangement establishes a framework for notification, coordination and cooperation on competition and consumer protection enforcement activities, exchange of information and avoidance of conflict.

It is the first time the Commission has entered into a three-way arrangement, but it adds to the range of bilateral agency based arrangements that it already has with the US Federal Trade Commission, the New Zealand Commerce Commission, the Taiwan Fair Trade Commission and the Consumer Affairs Council of Papua New Guinea. Australia also has an agreement of Treaty status with the United States on mutual antitrust enforcement assistance.

A copy of this latest agreement is available on the Commission's website at <http://www.accc.gov.au>.

E-commerce fraud prevention

The Worldwide E-Commerce Fraud Prevention Network is a non-profit group formed to reduce merchants' exposure to online fraud, promote the growth of e-commerce and spread the word on the latest anti-fraud technology. It has more than 300 members and aims to:

- identify, evaluate and recommend fraud prevention solutions based on merchants' needs;
- help network members stay ahead of the 'fraud curve' by sharing fraud trends and news;
- limit merchant exposure to fraudulent credit card transactions through improved security; and

- increase consumers' confidence in the security of their personal information and their ability to shop safely online.

Membership of the network is free and open to any entity involved in e-commerce and committed to fighting fraud and to merchants of all sizes.

Members of the network are committed to principles that include:

- ensuring all credit card information is encrypted and/or password-protected;
- maintaining data transmissions in a secure environment with limited, authorised access;
- monitoring behaviour and activities of employees with data access and deploying a rigorous auditing process;
- ensuring that business databases are not directly connected to the web; and
- contacting a law enforcement agency whenever a crime is suspected.

The Fraud Prevention Network website is at at <http://www.merchantfraudsqad.com/index.html>.

