

ANU Centre for Law & Economics wins new consultancies



The Centre for Law and Economics conducts research, post-graduate teaching and advisory work on the economic analysis of law and legal institutions. One particular area of activity is the economic analysis of Competition Law and Industry Regulation. Thus the Centre runs a post graduate course in the Legal Framework of Regulation taught to staff of Utilities and Utility Regulators across Australia. On research in the area recent developments at the centre include its appointment to advise a number of Australian Government on the effects of regulation across a wide range of industries including energy, Water; Transport and Information Communications and Technology as outlined below.

The Australian Government Department of Communications Information Technology and The Arts (DCITA) has recently engaged the Centre for Law and Economics to conduct research on the drivers of the Information Economy and how broadly defined Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can assist realise Australia's growth potential. The research will seek to extend present insights on the role of ICT in innovation and productivity growth, and so advance the understanding of the growth mechanisms important to Australian living standards, and enable a better understanding of the role of law and Government policy. The research report will extend present insights on the role of ICT in innovation and productivity growth in Australia in three main ways: first, it will control for the endogenous nature of ICT diffusion and adoption; second, it will examine the externalities, spillover and network effects of ICT; and third, the study will introduce data on Australia to a unique cross country data set including 17 OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Paris) countries, and covering the period 1980 to 2003. The work is being conducted in Collaboration with Professor Len Waverman and the London Business School.

The Minister of Energy for South Australia has appointed the Centre for Law and Economics to a panel to advise the South Australian Government on Regulatory economics; Public policy; and Market mechanisms; across a wide range of industries including Electricity; Gas; Renewable energy (Greenhouse); Water; and Transport (including rail and ports). The Centre for Law and Economics is to work closely with the Energy Division of the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), and may be required to consult with key stakeholders and industry participants.

The Minister for Utilities for NSW has appointed Dr George R Barker, Director of the Centre for Law and Economics, to a panel to advise on National energy market reform; Natural gas competition; Development of energy and water policies; Regulatory and Network matters and Environmental matters including Greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the panel George is expected to work closely with the NSW Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability (DEUS).

Dr George Barker
Director
Centre for Law & Economics
ANU College of Law
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 0200