

## Resume: Dr Rob Albon

**Dr Rob Albon** has served as Senior Economic Adviser in the telecommunications area of the Regulatory Affairs Division of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission since 2000. Prior to joining the ACCC he was at the Australian National University (including as a Senior Lecturer in Economics and Director of the Centre for Applied Economics) and has held visiting positions at universities and government agencies in Britain, Japan, the United States and Australia. His experience in utility economics has extended over more than twenty years, covering all the important utility areas and including government and private-sector consultancies, contributions to the policy debate, published academic research and conduct of training courses in utility regulation and management.

### ***Experience in Telecommunications Economics***

Rob's work on the telecommunications industry began in the mid-eighties (before the commencement of the reform process in Australia) and has continued throughout that period, drawing on the developing international literature and tracking experiences in reform of other countries' telecommunications industries. Over this period he has considered all of the major issues of telecommunications reform, contributed to the broad policy debate and conducted detailed analysis of a variety of aspects of the industry and its regulation through both consultancies and academic research. His work at the ACCC has involved all areas of telecommunications regulation and reporting, and has included major roles in the 2001 and 2004 reviews of retail price controls; the ACCC's role following Telstra's appeal to the Australian Competition Tribunal on PSTN access pricing; preparation of submissions relating to the Productivity Commission's review of telecommunications competition regulation, and the 2003/2004 mobiles review.

### ***Selected Publications, Seminars and Consultancies***

'The Welfare Costs of Australian Telecommunications Pricing', **Economic Record**, 4, 185, June 1988, 102-12.

'A New Age in Telecommunications? An Assessment of the May Ministerial Statement 1988', **ACC/Westpac Economic Discussion Papers**, 4 1988, December, Canberra.

'The Revenue and Efficiency Implications of Timed Local Calls', **Australian Journal of Management**, 14, 2, December 1989, 115-26.

Address to the 1988 ATUG Conference on 'Telecommunications: The Policy Options'.

'Interconnection Pricing: An Analysis of the Efficient Component Pricing Rule', **Telecommunications Policy**, 10, 5, July 1994, 414-20. (Earlier version presented at seminars at Keio, Niigata and Osaka Universities in 1993.)

'William Baumol's Contributions to Public Utility Economics', **Agenda**, 2, 4, 1995, 489-93.

'Telecommunications and Economic Development — With Reference to Indonesia', **RIAD (Research Institute of Asian Development) Bulletin**, International University of Japan, No. 3, March 1995, 83-106.

'National Interest and the Sale of Telstra', Vital Issues Seminar, Parliamentary Library, 22 May 1996.

Research work with the Industry Commission from September to December 1996, leading to the March 1997 Staff Information Paper **Telecommunications Economics and Policy Issues** (co-authored with Philippa Dee and Alexis Hardin).

External referee for ACCC's **Access Pricing Principles Telecommunications — a draft guide**, January 1997.

'The Effects of Microeconomic Reform in Telecommunications' in Productivity Commission and Australian National University, **Microeconomic Reform and Productivity Growth**, Workshop Proceedings, AusInfo, Canberra, 1998, 313-30.

Consultant with Access Economics for the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts as part of a team reviewing the Government's retail price controls for the third and fourth triennia, 1995 and 1998.

International Expert, 'Number Portability, Infrastructure Sharing, Licensing, Interconnection and Pricing Issues in Telecommunications Market of India', organised by ITU, TRAI and TERI, New Delhi, October 6-8 2003.

'Market Power and its Policy Implications for Mobile Telecommunications', presented at ITS Biennial Conference, Berlin, September 2004. (Co-authored with Richard York.)