

## PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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### News Release

#### Positive outcomes to benefit produce and grocery sectors

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) held its seventeenth meeting on 3 May 2006 in Melbourne.

The committee heard a progress report from the PGICAC reference group tasked with developing recommendations to strengthen the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. The PGICAC agreed the reference group will consider:

- ACCC advice on general principles of good code design;
- any changes to the existing Code in the light of this advice;
- the basic objects of the Code to ensure they are measurable and written in plain English; and
- developing options for improving the focus of the current code.

The reference group will report back to the next meeting.

To enhance transparency and build awareness of the benefits of the Code the committee accepted the reference group recommendation that the Committee Chair release a statement of outcomes after each meeting on behalf of the committee.

The Committee also unanimously agreed to a number of changes to the Code arising from the addition of three grower representatives to the Committee, the Code's name change in November 2005 (formerly the Retail Grocery Industry Code) and clarification of reporting arrangements.

These Code changes take effect immediately. For more information see [www.pgio.com.au](http://www.pgio.com.au)

#### Background

The Committee was established in 2000 by the Australian Government to administer the Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Retail Grocery Industry. The Code covers all industry participants in the produce and grocery industry in their vertical supply relationships, from primary producers and growers to supermarket retailers and provides a mechanism for dispute resolution through the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman.

For further information, contact Ian Davis, Chairman, on (03) 8608 2897.  
19 May 2006

Code signatories include: Aldi Stores; Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries Limited; Australian Dairy Farmers, Australian Chicken Growers Council, Australian Egg Corporation Ltd; Australian Food and Grocery Council; Australian Retailers Association; Coles Myer Limited; Murray Valley Winegrape Growers; National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia; National Farmers Federation; National Retail Association; Horticulture Australia Council; Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association; and Woolworths Limited.