

PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

News Release

Positive outcomes to benefit produce and grocery sectors

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) held its nineteenth meeting on 24 October 2006 in Melbourne.

The Committee welcomed newly appointed Ombudsman Mr David Newton and Assistant Ombudsman Ms Bianca Keys who addressed the meeting on the operation of the panel mediation system.

At this meeting, the reference group made up of committee members presented key recommendations on ways to strengthen the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. These recommendations included:

- increasing industry awareness of the code and its mediation services; and
- increasing transparency through the use of Terms of Trade and written contracts.

PGICAC members have been asked to provide comments on the recommendations prior to its next meeting.

The Committee noted the progress of the supplementary education and promotional campaign, including the information web site www.produceandgrocerycode.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.

8 December 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.