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**PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE  
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

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**Media Release**

**Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct under review**

An independent review of the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct is underway with consultants, Ms Vicki Woodburn and Mr Bob Granger of Garland Outcomes Pty Ltd, conducting industry consultations.

At its 6 September 2007 meeting, the Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) met with the consultants and discussed the effectiveness of the code and Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman in increasing industry awareness of best business practice and minimising trade disputes.

The PGICAC Chair, Mr Ian Davis, said that the Committee is dedicated to meeting the needs of industry, minimising disputes and improving the trading environment for industry participants.

“The Committee develops and provides guidelines, like the Terms of Trade Checklist, to increase industry’s knowledge of best business practice.

“If businesses clearly outline price, quality and payment terms in written contracts that is the first step in avoiding disputes and building strong trading relationships. Negotiating clear and concise contracts aids communication and clarifies each party’s responsibilities in honouring contracts,” he said.

Mr Davis added that the PGICAC recognises the importance of the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman, Mr David Newton, in facilitating the resolution of trade disputes and assisting increased communication between contracted parties.

“The provision of a low-cost mediation service through the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman, allows produce and grocery industry participants to resolve disputes before they escalate. Fostering better trading relationships through mediation helps promote future cooperation between parties,” he said.

The consultants will report to the Australian Government by 31 October 2007. The review’s terms of reference are:

- Assess the extent to which the code, and its committee, has achieved their objectives and terms of reference;
- Evaluate the level of awareness of the code within the produce and grocery industry and the extent to which the code has been adopted by the industry;
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the code and its administration; and
- Assess whether any alternative approaches would be more effective, efficient and appropriate.

Produce and grocery industry participants are encouraged to provide input into the review and can email [info@produceandgrocerycode.com.au](mailto:info@produceandgrocerycode.com.au) for further information.

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 Group 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.

The PGICAC is responsible for administering the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct, a voluntary code for produce and grocery industry participants, including producers, wholesalers, distributors, processors and retailers. The code also provides the Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman mediation service, funded by the Australian Government.

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For further information, contact Mr Ian Davis, Chairman, on (03) 8608 2897  
or visit [www.produceandgrocerycode.com.au](http://www.produceandgrocerycode.com.au)

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