

PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Statement of Outcomes

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) held its twenty-first meeting on 8 March 2007 in Melbourne.

The Committee welcomed Mr Charles McElhone as the new representative for the National Farmers' Federation, replacing the recently resigned Mr John Rogers.

An important outcome of the meeting was the agreement to amend the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct (the code) to include a Terms of Trade Checklist that participants in the industry can use as a guide to negotiate contracts. The Checklist provides industry with an indication of possible written contract requirements, such as supplier obligations, price determination, variation and notification, and procedures to manage product and services compliance or non-compliance with contracts.

At the March meeting, the PGICAC committed itself to promoting the best practice principles and dispute resolution mechanism provided by the code and supported the development and distribution of a brochure to promote the code.

The PGICAC aims to reinforce awareness of the code to ensure industry participants are informed of the assistance it provides in negotiating contracts and managing disputes. While there is increasing public attention surrounding the introduction of the mandatory Horticulture Code of Conduct on 14 May 2007, the PGICAC wants to assure industry that the code will continue to provide a mechanism to initiate best practice and dispute resolution.

Background

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) was established in 2000 by the Australian Government to administer the Retail Grocery Industry Code of Conduct. 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. In February 2005, the code was renamed the Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct to better reflect the coverage of its scope within the industry.

For further information, contact PGICAC Chairman, Ian Davis on (03) 8608 2897 or visit www.produceandgrocerycode.com.au

21 March 2007

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.