
PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Statement of Outcomes

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) held its twenty-seventh meeting on 16 December 2008 in Melbourne.

Committee Response to the ACCC recommendations to amend the Horticulture Code of Conduct

The PGICAC discussed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission grocery prices report and its recommendations, particularly those relating to the extension of the Horticulture Code of Conduct to cover all first point of sale transactions, and the serious implications this may have for the Produce and Grocery Industry Code. The Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry who has responsibility for the Horticulture Code, responding to the ACCC grocery price report and outlining these implications. The Committee will also make a submission to the Horticulture Code Committee who are considering the issues arising from implementation of the recommendations.

Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman

The Committee accepted the Ombudsman's Quarterly Reports for the periods July to September and October to December 2008. In the July to September period the Ombudsman received 6 enquiries, from growers (3), wholesalers (2), and an agent. No enquirer requested that the Ombudsman contact the other party regarding their complaint during this period. One mediation appointment was made for an application received in the previous period but, as the matter was settled, the mediation did not proceed.

In the October to December period the Ombudsman received 3 dispute enquiries from growers, only one of these enquirers requested the Ombudsman contact the other party to assist in the facilitation of resolution. No applications for mediation have been received.

The education, awareness and promotional activities undertaken by the Ombudsman have included presentations to industry, seminars and published articles.

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

Background

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee 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.

16 December 2008