
PRODUCE AND GROCERY INDUSTRY CODE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Statement of Outcomes

The Produce and Grocery Industry Code Administration Committee (PGICAC) held its twenty-ninth meeting on 7 June 2010 in Melbourne.

Horticulture Australia Council (HAC)

The PGICAC discussed the wind up of Horticulture Australia Council (HAC) on 30 June 2010. The Chair and the Committee thanked Mr Stuart Swaddling for his valuable contribution to the Committee and the code.

The Committee agreed to the importance of ongoing representation of the horticulture industry on the PGICAC and that once a new body to replace HAC evolves, it would be invited to join the Committee.

Small Business Mediation Services

The Committee noted that the Government will be amalgamating the dispute resolution process under the three mandatory codes of conduct and the PGIC and that the service would be administered by the Department of Innovation, Science and Research (DIISR) with policy responsibility remaining with the current departments.

Committee membership and the role of the Committee

The Committee agreed to preparing a paper focussing on the strategic direction of the Committee and examining the Committee membership and the role of the Committee.

Produce and Grocery Industry Ombudsman

The Committee accepted the three Ombudsman's Quarterly Reports for the periods July 2009 to May 2010. The Ombudsman received 8 dispute enquiries from growers. One application for mediation has been received during this period and a mediator was appointed to this matter.

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

The Committee was impressed by the amount of education and outreach work completed over the last 6 months and very pleased with the quality of the reporting.

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.

7 June 2010