



**Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and
New Zealand Commerce Commission**

COOPERATION PROTOCOL FOR MERGER REVIEW

August 2006

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the New Zealand Commerce Commission (NZCC) agree to the practices set out in this Cooperation Protocol for Merger Review.

This Cooperation Protocol for Merger Review is designed to assist cooperation in merger review between the ACCC and the NZCC consistent with the Australian and New Zealand governments' shared objective of streamlining the trans-Tasman business environment.

The ACCC and NZCC believe that this Cooperation Protocol for Merger Review is desirable to reduce compliance costs for businesses, transaction costs for the agencies and to increase the effectiveness of competition laws.

The ACCC and the NZCC will seek to apply this protocol to the greatest possible extent, consistent with their priorities, aims, functions and respective laws, interests and enforcement responsibilities, when they:

- (a) review the same merger transaction;
- (b) exchange information for use in a merger review being conducted by either agency; or
- (c) otherwise exchange information with the aim of assisting the respective agencies in carrying out their merger review processes and functions.

This Cooperation Protocol for Merger Review will come into effect from 7 August 2006.

Graeme Samuel
Chairman
Australian Competition and Consumer
Commission

Paula Rebstock
Chair
New Zealand Commerce Commission

4th August 2006

3rd August 2006