



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission fosters competitive, efficient, fair and informed Australian markets

Notice of inquiry into grocery prices

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) will hold an inquiry into the competitiveness of retail prices for standard groceries under Part VIIA of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

The matters the inquiry will take into consideration will include:

- the current structure of the grocery industry at the supply, wholesale and retail levels including mergers and acquisitions by the national retailers
- the nature of competition at the supply, wholesale, and retail levels of the grocery industry
- the competitive position of small and independent retailers
- the pricing practices of the national grocery retailers and the representation of grocery prices to consumers
- factors influencing the pricing of inputs along the supply chain for standard grocery items
- any impediments to efficient pricing of inputs along the supply chain
- the effectiveness of the Horticulture Code of Conduct, and whether the inclusion of other major buyers, such as retailers, would improve the effectiveness of the code.

The ACCC will provide its report to the Australian Government no later than 31 July 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

The inquiry will commence on the date of publication of this notice in the *Gazette*. The ACCC will soon establish a section for this inquiry on its website www.accc.gov.au. An issues paper will be released shortly.

The ACCC invites submissions to the inquiry. The issues paper will specify the timing for submissions and explain how they should be provided to the inquiry. The ACCC intends to hold public hearings for the purposes of the inquiry. The times and locations of these hearings will be determined and published at a later date.

www.accc.gov.au