

Response ID ANON-FTNX-YRTM-C

Submitted to Supermarkets inquiry issues paper
Submitted on 2024-03-13 09:53:40

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:
Toby Hutcheon

What is your email address?

Email:
[REDACTED]

What is the name of your organisation?

Organisation:
Boomerang Alliance

Are you responding to this survey as:

Consumer or community advocacy group

If other, please specify: :

What is the size of your organisation?

Small business – less than \$10 million annual turnover

Do you wish to publish your submission anonymously?

No - please publish both my name and organisation name

Confidential information

Guided submission - Tell us about yourself

Your response:

Please provide some background information about yourself:

We are a community-based advocacy organisations, primarily focused on the elimination of problematic packaging
We had an office in Sydney and work remotely in every State.

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide any confidential background information if applicable here:

No

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason for background confidential reason:

n/a

Guided submission - Price and non-price competition

Your response:

Please provide response to price and non-price competition question :

We, and our supporters regularly monitor the actions of supermarkets with respect to packaging. The issue we receive most comment on from supporters and the public is the practice of charging more for loose fruit and vegetables compared to equivalent products that are packaged.

This practice provides a clear price incentive to purchase unnecessary packaging. Packaging that councils and their ratepayers have to foot the bill for

collection and recovery. In the case of plastic packaging, there is no collection services, so it all goes to waste (with associated public costs)

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide confidential response to price and non-price question if applicable:

No

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason to confidential response of price and non-price competition question:

N/A

Guided submission - Industry trends

Your response:

Please provide response to Industry trends question:

Supermarkets attract consumers through a comprehensive stock list, a convenient service and (apparently cost-competitive prices). They offer products in packaging that the consumer accepts will be recovered after use. Reuse and recycling are important considerations for most consumers when making purchasing decisions.

Data from APCO indicates that less than 20% of plastic packaging is being recovered, the rest being wasted. An estimated 3-4% of plastic packaging contains recycled content.

Many supermarkets and brands now use the Australian Recycling Label (ARL) to promote their environmental credentials to consumers. The ARL provides information on the recyclability of product packaging and information on its correct discard to avoid waste. Since October 2022, there has been no in-store collection of soft plastics. Despite this, the ARL (provided by the two major supermarkets) still advises consumers they can discard soft plastics, in store. The ARL should be changed if no service is being provided.

The ARL itself needs to be reviewed as it suggests to consumers that their packaging (particularly plastics) will be recycled. The ARL description of recyclability needs to be expanded to include the requirements that any packaging is recovered in practice and at scale.

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide confidential response to industry trend question if applicable:

No

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason for confidential response to industry trend question:

N/A

Guided submission - Consumer experiences

Your response:

Please provide response to consumer experience question:

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide confidential response to consumer experience question if applicable:

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason for confidential response to consumer experience question:

Guided submission - Grocery supply chains

Your response:

Please provide response to grocery supply chain structure question:

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide confidential response to grocery supply chain structure question if applicable:

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason for confidentiality response to grocery supply chain structure question:

Guided submission - Other factors impeding or supporting efficient supply or pricing

Your response:

Please provide response to other factors impeding or supporting efficient supply or pricing question:

Is there any confidential information you would like to provide in support of your response?

Please provide confidential response to other factors impeding or supporting efficient supply or pricing question if applicable:

Why is this information confidential?

Please provide reason for confidential response to other factors impeding or supporting efficient supply or pricing question:

Written submission - Upload page

Please upload your public written submission in either PDF or Word Doc format.

Upload documents for your public written submission:

No file uploaded

Please upload a confidential version of your written submission, should you wish to do so.

Confidential written submission upload:

No file uploaded