

10 June 2008

Grocery Prices Enquiry Horticulture Code Submissions Australian Competition and Consumer Commission By email: <u>Grocerypricesinguiry@accc.gov.au</u>

Dear Sir,

The Victorian Farmers Federation welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the ACCC Issues Paper regarding the Horticulture Code of Conduct.

While the detailed issues discussed in the paper are covered by both the National Farmers Federation and Horticulture Australia Council submissions, the VFF wishes to provide some additional comment.

- 1. The VFF supports a mandatory code that covers the first transaction from the grower. It is most important that the scope of the Code commences from the first transaction for the true spirit of the Code to be realised.
- 2. The VFF supports further discussion on the possibility of a single code.
- 3. The VFF supports the establishment of a cross supplychain committee with terms of reference review to the possibility of a single Code. This committee should include representatives of state farming organisations.

The VFF believes that the only way to provide a clear and transparent trading environment is to adopt our recommendations and those of the NFF and HAC.

Yours sincerely,

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Peter Cochrane President VFF Horticulture