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OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

House of Representatives Hansard – 18 June 2020

Motions

- **Automotive industry** – Mr Katter (Kennedy) moved that the government support the reestablishment of the Australian car manufacturing industry, following General Motors' departure, with a majority Australian shareholding; and put policies in place that require the Federal Government to purchase Australian made cars. The motion was seconded by Mr Wilkie (Clark). The Government moved that Mr Katter and Mr Wilkie no longer be heard.

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Motions

- **Truck Driving** – Senator Sheldon moved a motion relating to the pressure that truck drivers are under in Australia; and the ACCC's correspondence to a driver on issues relating to price-fixing. The motion asked the ACCC to withdraw the letter and apologise to the truck driver.
 - Senator Duniam responded to the motion raised by Senator Sheldon, and stated that the ACCC's role, in ensuring compliance with the Australian Consumer Law and the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*, is independent from the government.
 - **Senator Sterle also made a statement** regarding a letter from the ACCC to a truck driver regarding price-fixing allegations.
- **Airline industry** – Senator Gallacher moved a motion that called on the government to outline a national economic plan that will drive economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed competition in the airline sector.
 - *"We all know that the airline industry has become very competitive over the last three decades, say. But what could possibly happen here, without a coherent economic plan, is that we could be handing Qantas and Jetstar a monopoly... If you hand Qantas and Jetstar a monopoly over the 60-odd million domestic passenger trips that are taken in Australia each year, it's not going to be a good outcome for the economy... [and] there won't be the level of competition."*

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Question Time

- **Telecommunications** – Senator Davey asked a question to the Minister representing the Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts Senator Reynolds about how the government is improving telecommunications access through the Mobile Black Spot Program. The Minister gave an update on the government's investment and number of mobile base stations across Australia.

Committees

- **Road Safety** – The Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Birmingham presented the government's response to the report of the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee on its inquiry into aspects of road safety in Australia.
 - Senator Sheldon spoke on the government's response, and **made statements that were critical of the ACCC's recent correspondence to a truck-driver.**

Please note that the next sitting date is Tuesday, 4 August 2020.

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Liang

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The ACCC acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.