



ALDI Stores

(A Limited Partnership)
ABN 90 196 565 019

1 Sargents Road, Minchinbury, NSW 2770 AUSTRALIA

CORPORATE

Locked Bag 56
St Marys Delivery Centre
NSW 2760

Telephone: (02) 9675 9000
Facsimile: (02) 9675 9399

Buying Department
Facsimile: (02) 9675 9299

9 July 2008

Jasmine Tan
Adjudication Branch
ACCC
23 Marcus Clarke Street
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: Jasmine.Tan@accg.gov.au

Dear Jasmine

Re: Australian National Retailers Association A91093

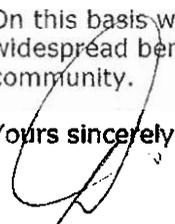
I refer to the application by the Australian National Retailers Association for authorisation by the ACCC to conduct a pilot program whereby retailers will impose a charge for lightweight (single use) plastic bags over a four week period in August 2008.

ALDI has been working closely with the Victorian Government as part of this initiative. Given ALDI has never provided free plastic bags and does not support the use of single use plastic bags, it is not practicable for ALDI to be involved in the trial, but we are aware of it and supportive of the Government's intent to reduce plastic bag use.

Accompanying this cover sheet please find a copy of the letter that was recently sent to the Victorian Government. The letter sets out the rationale for our position and indicates our support of the Government in its efforts to reduce plastic bag use while preserving ALDI's own approach to effective environmental management.

On this basis we have no objections to the proposed trial and believe there would be widespread benefits from any steps taken that may help reduce plastic bag use in the community.

Yours sincerely


On behalf of
Matthew Barnes
Managing Director Buying



ALDI Stores
(A Limited Partnership)
ABN 90 196 565 019

COPY

1 Sargents Road, Minchinbury, NSW 2770 AUSTRALIA

CORPORATE

Locked Bag 56
St Marys Delivery Centre
NSW 2760

Telephone: (02) 9675 9000
Facsimile: (02) 9675 9399

Buying Department
Facsimile: (02) 9675 9299

24 June 2008

Mr Ben Hart
Chief of Staff
Office of Gavin Jennings MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Innovation
Level 22/50 Lonsdale St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ben

Thank you for your letter dated 19 June. Accompanying this response please find an amended draft media release to accurately reflect the position of ALDI. We have also provided some markups on your letter to me which provides further explanation of our position.

In short, ALDI does not and has never, supported the availability of single use plastic bags. We fundamentally believe they are bad for the environment. ALDI has made the deliberate decision not to support or supply single use plastic bags in any form, whether for free or for a small charge.

It is for this reason it we cannot be seen to support a trial of charging for single use plastic bags *because we do not support supply of single use bags at all, under any arrangement*. It is therefore very important in any expression by the Government of our support for reducing plastic bag use that this point is made very clear.

In addition to our position of not supporting the availability of single use plastic bags in any form, we are unable to trial any tiered pricing arrangement even for the sale of our durable plastic bags, because ALDI has a policy of national pricing meaning that prices for products are the same across each of our 171 stores.

As discussed with your office, ALDI is the only major Australian supermarket retailer that does not offer free plastic bags to shoppers. Instead we offer shoppers a range of alternatives including the sale of durable multi-use plastic bags, as well as bio-degradable bags and the familiar green bags.

We support the initiative of the Victorian state government to explore ways of reducing plastic bag use *in all forms* across the state. Certainly the intelligence gathered from the proposed trial will be extremely valuable in helping to inform the debate. We are very happy to provide you with data from our own experience in Australia and to be an active participant to help inform debate premised on our starting position outlined above.

ALDI's shopping bags are sold to customers at cost in a transparent manner that avoids the cost of bags being hidden in the overall cost of groceries. In 2007 we sold just over 7 million re-usable bags and by not giving bags away free, we estimate that every year we prevent around 150 million plastic bags being used and potentially being disposed into the environment.

ALDI's position has always been a strong belief that the most effective way to achieve environmental benefit is through a national system, similar to the one ALDI already operates, where durable (multi

use) shopping bags and other alternatives are offered for sale to customers at the checkout. In fact, we would also be supportive of any moves to ban single use plastic bags.

We fully expect that the pressure will continue to mount on all retailers to address plastic bag use. With the Government's active support and involvement we believe a sensible and effective solution can be reached that delivers the best possible outcomes for the environment and for customers on a national basis.

In conclusion, I applaud the Government's commitment to considering the issues around plastic bag use in retailing but also request appropriate recognition of ALDI's position in any communication surrounding the Government's research. We remain committed to working with the Government to develop the most effective solution and should you require further information, I can be contacted on (02) 9675 9211.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Barnes
Managing Director Buying