

SHOPPING CENTRE

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

23 June 2014

Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
PO Box 1199
DICKSON ACT 2602

Dear Dr Chadwick,

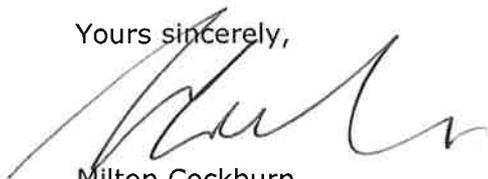
A91407 – Australian Newsagents Federation – Further Submission

After we lodged our submission on 18 June 2014, we were advised on 20 June by the ACCC of the further submission lodged by the ANF (originally sent on 10 June but apparently resent on 16 June). We oppose the revised approach outlined in that submission and the objections we have made in our submission of 18 June are still relevant.

The ANF's revised proposal appears to pick up the suggestion of Commissioner Walker at the Pre-Decision Conference on 6 June 2014. We repeat our view that collective bargaining authorisations should not be a matter of handing organisations such as the ANF a 'blank cheque' to negotiate on matters until they find something which they regard as being worthy of collective agreement. This would be the outcome if the ACCC authorises this revised approach. Without knowing the specific matters on which the ANF proposes to bargain collectively, we do not believe the ACCC is in a position to assess whether there is a benefit to the public and assess whether that public benefit outweighs any possible detriment to the public.

If the ANF's revised approach is authorised, and our members begin receiving letters from the ANF proposing to engage them in collective bargaining, we anticipate (as the relevant industry association) receiving enquiries from individual members: "what does this mean?" and "what are the matters on which the ANF proposes to bargain?" The only honest answer we can give to both questions is: "we haven't got a clue". That is surely not an outcome that should be endorsed by the ACCC.

Yours sincerely,



Milton Cockburn
Executive Director

Leaders in Shopping Centre Advocacy

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