

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Future Made in Australia (Guarantee of Origin) Bill

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Agency: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Topic: Greenwashing
Reference: Future Made in Australia (Guarantee of Origin) Bill
Senator: **Senator Sarah Hanson-Young**

Question:

1. What extra resources or focus will you be putting in to prevent this certification being used to mislead both domestic and international customers?

Answer:

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Competition and Consumer Act, which includes the Australian Consumer Law.

A key ACCC compliance and enforcement priority for 2024-25 is to investigate environmental claims and sustainability concerns which apply to consumer, product safety, fair trading and competition matters. In line with this priority the ACCC has undertaken a range of compliance and enforcement activities. The ACCC has not been provided additional funding or resources for this work.

Having regard to our existing priorities and scope as a whole of economy regulator, the ACCC will not be in a position to dedicate specific resources to claims made to Australian consumers in connection with the certification mechanism under the voluntary Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme.

The detection and identification of non-compliant conduct under specific schemes, including the GO scheme, is more effectively undertaken by the agency with the relevant knowledge, expertise and the regulatory responsibility for compliance with the scheme. In this case, that agency is the Clean Energy Regulator.

From the ACCC's experience, it is important that certification schemes such as the GO scheme also include rules and mechanisms for ongoing monitoring and detection of non-compliance, as well as appropriate remediation steps when a party is non-compliant.

If the ACCC receives a report that alleges that a business has contravened the ACL, the ACCC will assess that report in line with our [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#).