

24 April 2024

Senator Nick McKim  
Chair, Select Committee on Supermarket Prices

By email: [supermarketprices.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:supermarketprices.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator McKim

Thank you for the opportunity for Coles to appear before the Select Committee on Supermarket Prices on Tuesday 16 April.

During the course of the Committee's inquiry, claims have been made about the way supermarkets deal with farmers and fear of retribution should issues be raised by suppliers. We also note your further comments on this matter in the media yesterday.

Coles deals with our suppliers fairly and highly values the partnerships that we have built together. Illustrative of this are the many producers who have supplied Coles with their high quality Australian grown produce for many years, some for decades and others for more than 50 years.

As we explained during our testimony, the claims that have been made about treating suppliers unfairly are not consistent with the way in which Coles conducts itself nor have any of the suppliers who have appeared before the Committee been direct suppliers to Coles.

Further to our invitation made to the Committee during our appearance, we would like to again invite you, and any aggrieved parties that are suppliers to Coles, to meet with us so that we can address any of their issues in relation to the conduct of our business. By having you participate in this process we hope to satisfy the Committee, the supplier and the broader community that Coles takes very seriously our high standards of conduct, that we act quickly to resolve any issues and that suppliers need not fear retribution.

Given the importance of this matter, should any of the suppliers on whose behalf you have spoken, are suppliers to Coles, please contact me as soon as you are able so that we can arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

**Vittoria Bon**  
Government and Industry Relations Manager  
Coles Group