
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

**Advisory Report on the Constitutional
Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011
and Competition and Consumer Amendment
(Horticultural Code of Conduct) Bill 2011**

House of Representatives

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry

March 2012
Canberra

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Foreword

This inquiry has considered two Bills that seek to improve the regulation of agriculture and produce markets in Australia. The Committee considered these two Bills jointly, and received a number of helpful submissions.

Whilst acknowledging the positive intent of the Bills, this report records the Committee's concerns about the impacts the Bills would have if passed. Any proposed changes to current regulation must be very carefully considered, to ensure that the overall benefits of change outweigh the costs of change. Some of the ideas put forward in these Bills have initial appeal, but in practice they would be counterproductive.

Above all, any changes to the regulation of the horticulture industry must have the broad support of the industry itself. It is clear, through submissions to the inquiry, that these Bills do not have the support of the industry.

This report provides a detailed discussion of issues raised during the inquiry, and I would like to thank those individuals and organisations that made submissions to the inquiry.

Hon Dick Adams MP
Chair



Membership of the Committee

Chair Hon Dick Adams MP

Deputy Chair Mr Alby Schultz MP

Members Hon Bruce Billson MP*

Mr George Christensen MP

Mr Darren Cheeseman MP

Hon John Cobb MP*

Mr Tony Crook MP

Mr Laurie Ferguson MP*

Mr Steve Gibbons MP*

Mr Geoff Lyons MP

Mr Rob Mitchell MP

Mr Dan Tehan MP

* Denotes supplementary member, appointed to the Committee for this inquiry only.

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Terms of Reference

On 22 September 2011 the Selection Committee referred the following bill to the Committee for inquiry and report:

- Competition and Consumer Amendment (Horticultural Code of Conduct) Bill 2011 and Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011

The Terms of Reference were the text of the Bill.

Under Standing Order 222(e), the House is taken to have adopted Selection Committee reports when they are presented.



List of abbreviations

ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ANRA	Australian National Retailers Association
HCOC	Horticulture Code of Conduct
MDFVGA	Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
NFF	National Farmers' Federation
NSWFA	NSW Farmers' Association
PICOC	Produce and Grocery Industry Code of Conduct
RIS	Regulatory Impact Statement



List of recommendations

Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011 not be passed.

Competition and Consumer Amendment (Horticulture Code of Conduct) Bill 2011

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Competition and Consumer Amendment (Horticulture Code of Conduct) Bill 2011 not be passed.

