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# Appendixes

## The Trade Practices Act

On 17 August 1995 the first of a series of amendments to the Trade Practices Act came into effect. These amendments are the first instalment of the National Competition Policy package contained in the *Competition Policy Reform Act 1995*. Other important changes will commence by January 1996 and on 21 July 1996 respectively. Outlined below are some of the provisions of the Trade Practices Act referred to in the *Journal*, as amended so far.

### Access regime

Part IIIA of the Act establishes a national legislative regime to facilitate third party access to the services of certain facilities of national significance such as electricity grids or natural gas pipelines. Its object is to encourage competition in upstream or downstream markets.

Under this regime a party may apply to the National Competition Council asking it to recommend that a service be declared.

The Council cannot recommend declaration of a service unless it is satisfied that:

- access to the service would promote competition in another market;
- it would be uneconomical for anyone to develop another facility to provide the service;
- the facility is of national significance;

- access would not cause undue risk to health or safety;
- access is not already the subject of an effective regime; and
- access would not be against the public interest.

Having made an assessment according to the criteria, the Council must recommend to the Minister either that the service be declared or that it not be declared.

The Council's recommendation is considered by the designated Minister who decides whether or not to declare the service. (Where a facility is owned or operated by a State or Territory Government which is a party to the Competition Principles Agreement, the designated Minister is the responsible State/Territory Minister. Otherwise the designated Minister will be the responsible Commonwealth Minister.)

The Minister's decision is subject to appeal to the Australian Competition Tribunal.

Once a service is declared, parties are free to negotiate terms and conditions of access. If the parties cannot agree to the terms and conditions for access they may decide to refer the dispute to private arbitration. If the parties reach agreement through arbitration or negotiation they may apply to the Commission to have the contract registered. In deciding whether to register a contract the Commission must apply a public interest test. Once registered the contract may be enforced as if it were a Commission arbitration determination under Part IIIA.

If the provider of the service and the party seeking access cannot agree on any aspect of access to a declared service, either the provider or the party seeking access can notify the Commission of a dispute and the Commission

can make a determination setting the terms and conditions of access. Such determinations may be reviewed by the Australian Competition Tribunal upon application by a party to the determination. A party to the determination may seek to enforce the determination through the Federal Court.

Part IIIA not only provides a national regime to facilitate third party access, but allows State and Territory Governments to seek exemption from declaration for services covered by conforming regimes. Under Part IIIA, State or Territory Governments may apply to have their access regimes recommended as 'effective' by the National Competition Council.

Recommendations on the effectiveness of State or Territory access regimes are made to the relevant Commonwealth Minister on the basis of an assessment of the regime according to the relevant principles set out in the Competition Principles Agreement. Having received a recommendation the Commonwealth Minister must also make an assessment of the effectiveness of the access regime by applying the relevant principles set out in the Competition Principles Agreement. Once a decision is made by the Commonwealth Minister it must be published. An access regime which has been recognised by the Commonwealth Minister as effective, and continues to be recognised as such, cannot be declared under Part IIIA.

As an alternative to the declaration process Part IIIA allows a service provider to give an access undertaking to the Commission specifying the terms and conditions on which access will be made available to third parties. The Commission has a discretion to accept or reject an undertaking proposal. However, the Commission cannot accept an access undertaking if the service concerned is a declared service. If the Commission accepts such an undertaking the services provided by the facility cannot be recommended for declaration by the National Competition Council or declared by the designated Minister.

If the Commission thinks that a provider of an access undertaking has breached that undertaking, the Commission may apply to the Federal Court to enforce the undertaking as accepted by the Commission.

Further information regarding access may be obtained by purchasing the Commission publication entitled *Access Regime*.

## Restrictive trade practices

The Commission or the Minister can bring a civil action in the Federal Court seeking the imposition of pecuniary penalties — up to \$10 million for a corporation and up to \$500 000 for an individual, or can seek injunctions, ancillary orders, or, in relation to a merger, divestiture. The Minister will cease to be able to initiate civil action after the second commencement date.

Individuals and corporations can, through private action, seek various remedies from the Federal Court for breaches of the restrictive trade practices provisions of Part IV of the Act. The remedies include injunction (except for mergers), damages, ancillary orders, or, in relation to a merger, divestiture.

The restrictive trade practices provisions contained in Part IV of the Act — ss 45 to 50A — prohibit the following types of anti-competitive conduct. However, some can be authorised by the Commission.

Agreements affecting competition — these are prohibited if they have the purpose or effect of substantially lessening competition. Prohibited outright are:

- most **price agreements**; and
- agreements containing **exclusionary provisions**, commonly known as **primary boycotts**, i.e. collective refusals to deal with another party.

Price fixing agreements between competitors may be authorised where significant benefit to the public can be established.

Secondary boycotts — action by two or more people which hinders or prevents a third person from supplying goods or services to a business; acquiring goods or services from a business; or engaging in interstate or overseas trade or commerce — where the target business is not

the employer of those imposing the boycott. A boycott of this kind will be prohibited if it substantially lessens competition.

Misuse of market power — a corporation with a substantial degree of market power is prohibited from taking advantage of this power for the purpose of eliminating or damaging an actual or potential competitor, preventing the entry of a person into any market, or deterring or preventing a person from engaging in competitive conduct in any market.

Provisions against misuse of market power also extend to companies involved in trans-Tasman trade, whether based in Australia or New Zealand. Australian legal proceedings can be heard in New Zealand and vice versa.

Exclusive dealing — it is unlawful for a supplier to attempt directly or indirectly to interfere with the freedom of buyers to buy from other suppliers or to sell to whom they choose, e.g. by imposing territorial or customer restrictions on the buyer. Similarly, buyers cannot impose restrictions on the freedom of suppliers to sell as they wish. **Exclusive dealing is prohibited only if it has the purpose or effect of substantially lessening competition.** The Competition Policy Reform Act prohibitions extend to the resupply of services as well as goods. Supplying goods or services on condition that the buyer will acquire other goods or services from another supplier, even a related company, is prohibited outright regardless of its effect on competition (**third line forcing**). However, this conduct can be notified to the Commission, and may be authorised on public benefit grounds.

Resale price maintenance — a supplier must not directly or indirectly fix a price below which resellers may not sell or advertise their products or services, e.g. by threatening to cut off supplies or actually cutting them off. Two exemptions from this prohibition are **genuinely** recommended prices and loss leader selling. However, resale price maintenance on both goods and services is authorisable provided it delivers a benefit to the public such that it should be allowed to occur.

Mergers — are prohibited where they would have the effect, or likely effect, of substantially

lessening competition in a market. However, such mergers can be authorised on public benefit grounds. (See 'Authorisation' below.)

## Consumer protection

The consumer protection provisions of the Act contained in Part V — ss 51A to 75A — deal with:

- unfair practices — Division 1
- product safety and information — Division 1A
- conditions and warranties — Division 2
- actions against manufacturers/importers — Division 2A
- product liability — Part VA

There is also Part IVA relating to unconscionable conduct.

Their aim is to strengthen the position of consumers relative to sellers, distributors and manufacturers by ensuring that businesses compete fairly on price and quality, and by implying into consumer contracts non-excludable conditions and warranties as to quality, fitness and title.

Individuals and corporations can bring private actions in any court of competent jurisdiction for contravention of the consumer protection provisions of Division 1, Part V of the Act seeking damages, injunctions, or ancillary orders.

The Commission can bring a criminal prosecution in the Federal Court for breach of these provisions seeking monetary penalties of up to \$200 000 for corporations and up to \$40 000 for individuals. Civil, not criminal, proceedings can be taken for s. 52 (misleading conduct) in Division 1, Part V.

The Commission, the Minister, or any other person can ask the court for an injunction but only the Commission or the Minister can apply for a court order requiring corrective advertising

(not applicable to a breach of unconscionable conduct).

Only individuals or corporations can bring private actions for breaches of a seller's conditions and warranties, arising under Division 2, and against manufacturers or importers under Division 2A of Part V.

Section 51AB of Part IVA prohibits unconscionable conduct in consumer transactions.

Actions concerned with product liability can be brought by individuals, or as representative actions by the Commission on one or more person's behalf. A claimant does not have to prove negligence but does have to prove that on the balance of probabilities the product supplied by the manufacturer or importer was defective and that the defect was the cause of a loss or injury.

Actions must be taken within ten years of supply of the goods.

## Product safety and product information

The Commission is responsible for enforcing ss 65C and 65D of Division 1A of Part V of the Act, which relate to the non-compliance of goods with standards or bans, and for conducting conferences to review proposed and emergency bans or proposed compulsory recalls of consumer products.

The Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs is responsible for product safety policy and product recalls.

Compulsory consumer product standards for a particular good may be made by regulation or declared by the Minister for Consumer Affairs by a notice in the Commonwealth Gazette. There are two types of compulsory consumer product standard.

- Safety standards require goods to comply with particular performance, composition, contents, methods of manufacture or processing, design, construction, finish or

packaging rules e.g. to display warning labels on the flammability of children's nightwear.

- Information standards require prescribed information to be given to consumers when they purchase specified goods e.g. labelling garments or household fabrics to indicate the most suitable method of cleaning.

The Minister has the power to:

- by a notice in the Commonwealth Gazette, declare as unsafe those goods that may cause injury to a person — the supply of goods declared unsafe is banned for 18 months following the declaration. Bans may then be renewed, allowed to expire, or made permanent;
- issue public warning notices about possibly unsafe goods; and
- order suppliers to recall goods that have safety related defects.

Before goods are declared unsafe, or a permanent ban or compulsory recall order is brought into effect, suppliers of the goods may request a conference with the Commission to discuss the order. The request must be made within 10 days, or longer if the Commission permits, and the conference must be held within 14 days.

A supplier may also voluntarily decide to recall unsafe goods. The Minister must be notified of the details, in writing, within two days of the voluntary recall.

If it appears to the Minister that certain goods create an imminent risk of death, serious illness or severe injury, an emergency order can immediately be made, without a prior conference, for a ban or a product recall, disclosure of defect and disposal, repair, replacement or refund of price.

The same remedies apply for breaches of the safety provisions as for unfair business practices:

- monetary penalties of up to \$200 000 for companies and \$40 000 for individuals;
- injunctions;
- damages; and
- corrective advertising.

Ancillary orders are also available for persons who have suffered loss or damage because of the conduct.

Individuals who have suffered loss or damage as a result of a failure to comply with a standard, banning order or compulsory recall order can seek, by way of a private action, damages, injunction or other court order. Depending on the amount of damages involved, individuals can also seek remedies through a lower court e.g. State, Territory or small claims tribunal.

## Authorisation and notification

Authorisation and notification are processes whereby the Commission has the power to grant immunity from court action for certain practices that would otherwise be in breach of the Act.

### Authorisation

The immunity given by authorisation operates only from the time it is granted in the form of a final authorisation by the Commission.

The Commission's only function in considering an application for authorisation is to apply one of two tests, depending on the conduct in question.

For agreements that may substantially lessen competition, the applicant must satisfy the Commission that the agreement results in a benefit to the public that outweighs any anti-competitive effect.

For primary and secondary boycotts, resale price maintenance, third line forcing, and mergers, the applicant must satisfy the Commission that the conduct results in a **benefit to the public such that it should be allowed to occur.**

The Commission must look at the effect on competition in the market overall, not at the effect on individual competitors.

Once the application has been considered the Commission issues a draft determination and provides an opportunity for interested parties to request a conference. After the conference (if any) the Commission reconsiders the application and issues a final determination.

Authorisation **cannot** be granted for misuse of market power (s. 46).

### **Mergers: Authorisation applications for mergers are covered by additional specific legislative requirements.**

The Commission must make a decision on such applications within 30 days of receiving them (plus any time taken by the applicant to provide additional information sought by the Commission).

The Act provides for the Commission to extend the period to 45 days in complex matters.

Authorisation is deemed to be granted if the Commission does not make a decision within whichever time frame applies.

In making its assessment the Commission will consider **all** potential public benefits from the proposed merger.

It is specifically required by the Act to regard as public benefits:

- a significant increase in the real value of exports; or
- significant import substitution.

It must also take into account all other relevant matters that relate to the international competitiveness of Australian industry.

### Notification

Notification is available only for exclusive dealing, including third line forcing.

For notification of exclusive dealing conduct, immunity operates from the date of lodgment with the Commission and remains unless revoked by the Commission. The protection cannot be revoked unless the Commission is satisfied that the conduct substantially lessens

competition in the relevant market **and** there is insufficient public benefit flowing from the conduct to outweigh the lessening of competition.

In the case of third line forcing, protection is not accorded from the time of notification but comes into force at the end of a prescribed period from the time the Commission receives the notice, unless the Commission forms the view within the specified period that the likely benefit to the public from the conduct will **not** outweigh the likely detriment to the public. If immunity has commenced it is open at any time for the Commission to review the conduct and issue a draft revocation notice as with other notifications. Once a final revocation notice has been issued the conduct will no longer be protected after 31 days or from such later date as the Commission may specify.

Before a notification can be revoked an opportunity must be given for a conference with interested parties. An application for a review of a decision to revoke can be made to the Australian Competition Tribunal.

For both authorisation and notification procedures the Commission is required to keep a public register of all related documents. Copies of this information are available for inspection at Commission offices in each capital city. However, commercially sensitive material for which confidentiality has been granted by the Commission will not be available for public inspection.

### Fees

- Application for merger authorisations (s. 88(9)) — \$15 000
- Authorisation applications other than under s. 88(9) — \$7500
- Additional related authorisation applications — \$1500
- Notifications — \$2500 (other than for third line forcing)
- Additional related notifications — \$500
- Third line forcing notifications — \$1000
- Additional third line forcing notifications — \$200

## Private actions

Individuals or corporations can bring private actions for contravention of restrictive trade practices provisions (Part IV), the unconscionable conduct provisions (Part IVA), or the consumer protection provisions (Parts V & VA) of the Trade Practices Act.

Remedies include:

- damages (s. 82);
- injunction (except for mergers prohibited by s. 50) (s. 80);
- ancillary orders in favour of persons who suffer loss or damage, including return of property, return of money, specific performance, rescission or variation of contracts, and provision of repairs or spare parts (s. 87). (There is a wider scope for such orders arising from breaches of Parts IVA & V than for Part IV breaches); and
- divestiture of shares in relation to an unlawful merger (s. 81).

Jurisdiction to hear private actions arising from breaches of Part V has been extended by recent Commonwealth legislation and will be extended further if proposed complementary State legislation is passed.

The purpose of the *Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-Vesting) Act 1987* is to provide a more convenient and less expensive method of dealing with civil matters by permitting the Federal Court or a State or Territory Supreme Court either to deal with all related proceedings or to transfer them to another appropriate court.

The Cross-Vesting Act provides that, where a matter covering unconscionable conduct (Part IVA), unfair practices (ss 51A–65), all product safety and product information (ss 65B–65U), or product liability (Part VA) has been raised in the Federal Court or in a State or Territory Supreme Court, a party may apply to have the matter transferred to a State court that has

appropriate jurisdiction for the remedies sought.

The additional jurisdiction does not apply to Part IV matters. The Cross-Vesting Act will not confer jurisdiction on inferior State courts until State complementary legislation has been passed.

The *Jurisdiction of Courts (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1987* invests State and Territory Supreme Courts and inferior courts with concurrent jurisdiction in private action proceedings under the unfair trading practices and product safety and product information divisions of Part V of the Trade Practices Act within the limits of their various jurisdictions — for example as to subject matter and amount in issue. The grant of jurisdiction to inferior courts is further limited to remedies of a kind they could grant under relevant State or Territory law.

Generally, cross-vesting of jurisdiction and the investing of new jurisdiction in State courts in trade practices matters is *in addition* to jurisdiction already enjoyed by those courts either as a matter of general law or by other statutes. Appeals from State and Territory courts are heard in their relevant appeal courts.

A defence based on Part IV of the Trade Practices Act can be raised in Supreme Court proceedings (*Carlton and United Breweries v Castlemaine Tooheys Ltd*, 1986 ATPR 40712) and presumably the same would apply to defences based on Parts IVA or V.

With State legislation mirroring Part V of the Trade Practices Act now operating in all States and Territories, this legislation will minimise jurisdictional issues which might otherwise arise.

## Guidance, research and information

The Commission is required by s. 28 of the Trade Practices Act to disseminate information and undertake research projects. The main purpose of this requirement is to make the business community more aware of their obligations and rights under the Act and make

consumers aware of the relevance of the Act to them.

The Commission therefore produces a range of publications, makes Commission staff available to speak to consumer and industry groups, and arranges seminars and workshops on matters of topical interest.

## The Prices Surveillance Act

The Prices Surveillance Act enables the Commission to examine the prices of selected goods and services in the Australian economy.

The three pricing functions assigned to the Commission are:

- to vet the proposed price rises of any business organisations placed under prices surveillance;
- to hold inquiries into pricing practices and related matters, and to report the findings to the responsible Commonwealth Minister; and
- to monitor the prices, costs and profits of an industry or business and to report the results to the Minister.

## Prices surveillance

The Minister determines which organisations, goods or services should be subjected to prices surveillance. These are formally 'declared'. In cases where an organisation is specified, the Minister must nominate how long the declaration must remain in effect.

A declared organisation can not raise the price of a declared product beyond its peak price of the previous 12 months unless it fulfils the requirements of the Act. It is liable to a \$10 000 penalty if it does not comply.

The declared organisation has to notify the Commission of a proposed price rise and the

terms and conditions of supply. The prohibition on supply ceases if:

- the Commission advises it does not object to the proposed increase; or
- the declared organisation agrees to implement a lower price specified by the Commission; or
- the prescribed period — initially 21 days — expires.

The Commission has the option of recommending an inquiry — and an extension of the prohibition on a price rise — to the Minister in cases where the outcome of the prices surveillance procedure is perceived to be unsatisfactory.

The Commission maintains a public register of surveillance matters showing price notifications, the Commission's deliberations, the outcome and the reasons for the outcome.

## Inquiries

The Minister determines the subject of an Commission inquiry. The Commission has to give widespread and reasonable notice of the inquiry and serve individual notices on any organisations specially identified in the Minister's directions.

During the period of the inquiry, an organisation that has been served with the notice can not raise its price beyond its peak price of the previous 12 months unless it fulfils the requirements of the Act. It is liable to a \$10 000 penalty if it does. However, the Commission can authorise interim price increases.

A report of the Commission's findings and recommendations is submitted to the Minister and a copy is sent to any notified organisation on the same day. Any notified organisation has to advise the Commission of its proposed prices within 14 days of receiving a copy of the report. It could be fined \$1000 if it fails to do so. The Commission has to make public those prices within another 14 days.

## Monitoring

The Commission can monitor the prices, costs and profits of an industry or business. The Minister determines which industries or businesses are monitored and how often the Commission should report. The report is submitted to the Minister and copies are sent to the monitored organisations on the same day. Inquiry and monitoring reports are to be made available to the public as soon as possible after they have been submitted to the Minister.

## Speeches

### Commission Chairman Professor Allan Fels

*New regime governing the regulation of essential infrastructure.* The Allen Consulting Group — 5 February 1996

*Electricity regulation in the national market: the role of the ACCC.* ABARE Outlook '96 Conference — 7 February 1996

*Competition policy and law reform in the Asia-Pacific region.* University of Canberra — Asia Pacific Law Forum — 8 February 1996

*Public benefit test and extension of the TPA.* Council of Capital City Lord Mayors — 22 February 1996

*Operation of the new competition regime.* ICAA annual conference — 23 February 1996

*Future directions for competition in banking.* AIC — 29 February 1996

*Challenges and benefits of the Hilmer reforms.* VECCI — Tax & Economic Affairs Committee — 5 March 1996

*The future of competition policy.* Institute of Chartered Accountants, NSW — 15 March 1996



*Implementation of competition policy reform.* Victorian University of Technology — 18 March 1996

*Competition reform.* South Australian Business Council — 19 March 1996

### **Commission Deputy Chairman Allan Asher**

Allan Asher & Charles Sweeney QC. *Mergers and the new regime in trade practices.* IBC — Mergers and acquisitions — 1 March 1996

### **Commissioner David Lieberman**

*Competition law reform — a competition advantage for Australia.* ASC Summer School — 16 January 1996

*The competition policy regulator — powers, functions and responsibilities of the ACCC.* IRR — Implementing competition reform — 29 February 1996

*The ACCC view on corporate governance.* Institute of Company Secretaries — 11 March 1996

### **Commissioner Rhonda Smith**

*The ACCC — what does the mega-regulator have in store?* AIC — 21 February 1996

## **Media releases**

25/95 ACCC concerned about multiple site franchising in the petrol industry — 22.12.95

26/95 First Netcom to make refunds following ACCC action — 26.12.95

27/95 ACCC acts on alleged price fix, market sharing and resale price maintenance in the building industry — 29.12.95

1/96 Australian-made claim withdrawn — 4.1.96

2/96 Mobil gives undertaking on WA petrol purchase — 16.1.96

3/96 Health sector guide to competition responsibilities, risks — 19.1.96

4/96 NSW egg farms acquisition, lease arrangements not opposed — 21.1.96

5/96 Harbour tugs merger: ACCC seeks interim injunction — 22.1.96

6/96 ACCC calls on tug parties not to complete merger — 23.1.96

7/96 ACCC files against exercise bike trader — 1.2.96

8/96 Printing acquisition allowed to proceed — 6.2.96

9/96 Australis Media/Foxtel merger — 7.2.96

10/96 Harbour towage decision: ACCC response — 8.2.96

11/96 Merger of Brisbane taxi companies not opposed — 13.2.96

12/96 Omega 3 enriched eggs: ACCC seeks injunction — 14.2.96

13/96 Sunglasses recalled after failing standards test — 15.2.96

14/96 NAB's acquisition of 5.8 per cent of St George — 22.2.96

15/96 Court finds Mayne Nickless Security arm in breach of law: Holes in MSS's security blanket — 23.2.96

16/96 Optus apologises for rates bungle — 23.2.96

17/96 ACCC 'case by case' approach to banking mergers — 29.2.96

18/96 Omega 3 enriched eggs: 'Heart Smart' parties settle with ACCC — 5.3.96

- 19/96 Gillette honours promotion after ACCC action — 7.3.96
- 20/96 Federal Court says no to Optus — 7.3.96
- 21/96 ACCC clips former wool broker: Port Adelaide Wool Company — 8.3.96
- 22/96 Goodman Fielder/Bunge — 8.3.96
- 23/96 ACCC stops sale of suspect nighties — 15.3.96

## Publications

The following publications are available free from Commission offices unless otherwise indicated. Paid publications can be purchased by sending a cheque or money order made out to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission with your order; via a telephone order using Mastercard, Visa or Bankcard; or over the counter at Commission offices. (Some of the publications listed were published by the Trade Practices Commission, or Prices Surveillance Authority or Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs).

### Regular publications

ACCC Journal — bi-monthly journal (\$50.00 annual fee or \$25.00 student subscription). Six issues per financial year.

### Annual Reports

Past Annual Reports of the Trade Practices Commission and Prices Surveillance Authority are available from AGPS bookshops.

### Guides to the legislation and ACCC procedures

Best and fairest — compliance training package — January 1996 (\$390.00)

Summaries of the Trade Practices Act and Prices Surveillance Act — November 1995 (\$10.00 or \$5.00 for orders of 10 or more)

Guide to authorisations and notifications — a guide on provisions for exemptions from anti-competitive conduct under the Trade Practices Act — November 1995 (\$10.00)

Small business and the Trade Practices Act — a practical guide for small business — November 1995

A guide to the Trade Practices Act for the health sector — November 1995 (\$10.00)

Access regime — a guide to Part IIIA of the Trade Practices Act — November 1995 (\$10.00)

Section 155 of the Trade Practices Act — a guide to the administration of the ACCC's power to require provision of information — November 1994 (\$10.00)

Section 87B of the Trade Practices Act — a guideline on the ACCC's use of enforceable undertakings — August 1995 (\$10.00)

Representative applications under the Trade Practices Act — explanation and guiding principles — December 1986

When goods are defective — a guide to the product liability provisions of the Trade Practices Act — June 1993 (\$10.00)

Unconscionable conduct in commercial dealings — a guide to section 51AA of the Trade Practices Act (\$5.00 each or \$7.50 per set)

Unconscionable conduct in consumer dealings — a guide to section 51AB of the Trade Practices Act — October 1993 (\$5.00 each or \$7.50 per set)

Advertising and selling — a business guide to consumer protection under the Trade Practices Act — July 1991 (\$10.00)

Two price advertising — a guide for retailers — November 1994

Qualifications in catalogue advertising — a guide for retailers — November 1994

Environmental claims for marketing — a guideline — February 1992 (\$5.00)

Bringing green marketing claims down to earth — a guideline to environmental claims in marketing — July 1994

Misleading job ads — how to handle them (manual for classified advertising staff by TPC, Media Council of Australia and JobWatch) — June 1994. Available from Media Council.

Fuel consumption guideline — November 1992 (\$5.00)

Misuse of market power — Section 46 of the Trade Practices Act — a background paper — February 1990

### **Business and consumer information sheets and leaflets**

Know your credit card — March 1996

Warranties — December 1994

Refunds — January 1996

Product liability — a guide for business — June 1993

The right to safe goods — June 1993

Hold the phone — read this before you buy a mobile — January 1995 (published jointly by TPC, TIO, Austel, Optus, Telecom and Vodafone)

Recycling claims for used consumer plastic packaging — April 1995

Green marketing claims — what do they mean? — a guideline for consumers on environmental claims in marketing — July 1994

Telefraud — new name for an old scam — don't pay for ads you didn't order — January 1994

Refusal to deal — May 1993

Collusive agreements — November 1990

Resale price maintenance — November 1989

Don't let your suppliers tell you what to charge — resale price maintenance — November 1990

Spare parts and servicing — consumers — March 1991

Spare parts and servicing — manufacturers and importers — March 1991

Retail jewellery industry — advertising and selling guidelines — November 1990

Liquor industry advertising — August 1990

Labelling the origin of goods — April 1990

### **Product safety guides**

Children's nightclothes — 1994

Sunglasses and fashion spectacles — 1994

Children's toys — 1994

Cyclists' helmets — 1992

Children's flotation toys and swimming aids — 1992

Ingredient labelling of cosmetics — 1992

Care labelling — 1991

Vehicle jacks, trolley jacks, ramps and stands — 1991

Consumer product standards, bans and recalls — 1990

### **Reports and discussion papers**

#### *Acquisitions*

Acquisitions and the failing company argument — discussion paper by the TPC and the NZ Commerce Commission — October 1993 (\$3.00)

#### *Airport pricing*

Regulation of airport pricing — is the New Zealand approach applicable to Australia? — May 1995 (PSA)

*Banking and insurance*

The social responsibilities of banks — March 1995 (PSA)

Taking advantage — sale of life insurance to Aboriginal people in remote communities — March 1994 (\$10.00) (TPC)

Life insurance and superannuation — information paper on an inquiry by the Trade Practices Commission at the direction of the Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs — June 1992

Electronic funds transfer — report by the Treasury and the Trade Practices Commission on the operation of the EFT code of conduct — July 1990 (\$10.00)

*Bar code scanning (computerised checkouts)*

Checkout the price — review of the supermarket scanning code — July 1992 (\$10.00) (TPC)

*Building*

Home building — consumer problems and solutions — final report of the Trade Practices Commission review — November 1993 (\$15.00)

*Competition issues*

Measuring the effects of market power — November 1995 (PSA)

Non-price competition — October 1995 (PSA)

Using econometrics in market definition and market power assessment — May 1995 (PSA)

Market definition and competition issues in commercial broadcast radio — June 1994 (\$10.00) (TPC)

Submission to the National Competition Policy Review (Hilmer) — April 1993 (\$25.00) (TPC)

*Intellectual property*

Application of the Trade Practices Act to intellectual property — July 1991 (\$10.00) (TPC)

*Petroleum*

Issues paper for the inquiry into the petroleum products declaration — February 1996

*Professions*

Study of the legal profession — March 1994 (full report \$30.00, summary \$5.00) (TPC)

Study of the architectural profession — September 1992 (\$10.00) (TPC)

Study of the accountancy profession — July 1992 (\$10.00) (TPC)

*Utilities*

National electricity market code of conduct — Issues paper — March 1996

Review of the Victorian electricity industry access arrangements — a report to the Assistant Treasurer — May 1995 (TPC)

Safeguarding the consumer interest in reformed public utilities and complying with the Trade Practices Act — March 1995 (TPC)

Passing on the benefits — Consumers and the reform of Australia's utilities — papers from Trade Practices Commission conference — March 1994 (\$50.00)

*Waterfront*

Port leasing — Draft report — December 1992 (TPC)

**Pricing inquiry reports — 1995 and 1996**

Harbour towage — December 1995

Welded steel pipes declaration — October 1995

Concrete roof tile declaration — June 1995

Toothpaste declaration — June 1995

Glass container declaration — June 1995

Fees and charges imposed on retail accounts by banks and other financial institutions and by retailers on EFTPOS transactions — June 1995

Book prices and parallel imports — April 1995

**Pricing monitoring reports —1995 and 1996**

Coastal shipping freight rates — December 1995

Movements in average air fares — January 1995, May 1995, September 1995

Pay TV subscription prices — August 1995

Credit card pricing — May 1995

Stevedoring costs and charges on terminal handling charges — May 1995

**Other**

Outlook 1994-95 — May 1994 (TPC)

Corporate plan 1994-96 — May 1994 (TPC)

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# Commission offices

## **ACT (national office)**

General Manager, Hank Spier  
Yellow Bldg, Benjamin Offices  
Cnr Chan Street & Benjamin Way  
BELCONNEN ACT 2617  
PO Box 19, BELCONNEN ACT 2616  
Tel: (06) 264 1166  
Fax: (06) 264 2803

## **New South Wales**

Regional Director, Tim Howes  
Level 5, Skygardens, 77 Castlereagh Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
GPO Box 3648, SYDNEY NSW 2001  
Tel: (02) 230 9133  
Fax: (02) 223 1092

## **Tamworth**

Director rural NSW, Mark Quinane  
39 Kable Ave  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340  
PO Box 2071  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340  
Tel: (067) 61 2000  
Fax: (067) 61 2145

## **Victoria**

Regional Director, Craig Henderson  
Level 35, The Tower  
360 Elizabeth St  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
GPO Box 520 J, MELBOURNE VIC 3001  
Tel: (03) 9290 1800  
Fax: (03) 9663 3699

## **South Australia**

Regional Director, Rod Williams  
1st floor, ANZ House, 13 Grenfell Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
GPO Box 922  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
Tel: (08) 205 4242  
Fax: (08) 410 4155

## **Queensland**

Regional Director, Alan Ducret  
10th floor, AAMI Building  
500 Queen Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
PO Box 10048  
Adelaide Street Post Office  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
Tel: (07) 835 4666  
Fax: (07) 832 0372

## **Townsville**

Director North Queensland, Paul Arcscott  
Level 6, Commonwealth Bank Building  
Flinders Mall, TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
PO Box 2016, TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810  
Tel: (077) 71 2712  
Fax: (077) 21 1538

## **Western Australia**

Regional Director, Peter Dawson  
3rd floor, East Point Plaza  
233 Adelaide Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000  
PO Box 6230, EAST PERTH WA 6892  
Tel: (09) 325 3622  
Fax: (09) 325 5976

## **Tasmania**

Regional Director, Peter Clemes  
Ground floor, Marine Board Building  
Morrison Street  
HOBART TAS 7000  
GPO Box 1210M  
HOBART TAS 7001  
Tel: (002) 34 5155  
Fax: (002) 34 7796

## **Northern Territory**

Director, Derek Farrell  
Level 8, National Mutual Centre  
9-11 Cavanagh Street  
DARWIN NT 0800  
GPO Box 3056, DARWIN NT 0801  
Tel: (089) 43 1499  
Fax: (089) 43 1455

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# Commission contacts

## National office

General Manager — Hank Spier  
(06) 264 2924

Mergers and Asset Sales  
Senior Assistant Commissioner —  
Luke Woodward  
(06) 264 2900

Adjudication  
Senior Assistant Commissioner — John O'Neill  
(06) 264 2863

Deregulating Industries  
Senior Assistant Commissioner —  
Michael Rawstron  
(06) 264 2876

Enforcement and Regional Coordination  
First Assistant Commissioner — Glen Barnwell  
(06) 264 2896

Consumer Protection Strategies and  
Compliance Information  
Senior Assistant Commissioner — Delia Rickard  
(06) 264 2804

Corporate Management  
Senior Assistant Commissioner — Helen Lu  
(06) 264 2884

Media Liaison — Lin Enright  
(06) 264 2808

General publications queries —  
Robert Booth, Canberra (06) 264 2805  
Charlotte Reynolds, Melbourne (03) 9290 1815

Micro Economic Reform  
First Assistant Commissioner — Joe Dimasi  
(03) 9290 1800

Prices Surveillance and Inquiries  
Senior Assistant Commissioner — Trevor Lee  
(03) 9290 1800

Access Operations  
Senior Assistant Commissioner —  
Margaret Arblaster  
(03) 9290 1800

## Consumer protection coordinators

**ACT** (national office) — Nicole Masters  
Tel: (06) 264 2051 Fax: (06) 264 3902

**Sydney** — Robert Williams  
Tel: (02) 230 9109 Fax: (02) 223 1092

**Tamworth** — Mark Quinane  
Tel: (067) 61 2000 Fax: (067) 61 2445

**Melbourne** — Petras Kruzas  
Tel: (03) 9290 1952 Fax: (03) 9663 3699

**Adelaide** — Lesley Reardon  
Tel: (08) 205 4347 Fax: (08) 410 4155

**Brisbane** — Terry Guthrie  
Tel: (07) 3835 4644 Fax: (07) 3835 4643

**Townsville** — Paul Arscott  
Tel: (077) 71 2712 Fax: (077) 21 1538

**Perth** — Peter Dawson  
Tel: (09) 325 0602 Fax: (09) 325 5976

**Hobart** — Peter Clemes  
Tel: (002) 34 5155 Fax: (002) 34 7796

**Darwin** — Derek Farrell  
Tel: (089) 43 1495 Fax: (089) 43 1455







