

Reference number CR140

Contact name

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Is your submission confidential?

No

Submission type

Have Your Say

What should be the priorities for a competition policy reform agenda to ensure that efficient businesses, large or small, can compete effectively and drive growth in productivity and living standards?

Competition Policy Review

Please allow me to present this Submission in the form of a series of rhetorical questions – it will soon become obvious where it is headed:

- Has the Australian Government in the past set aside a pool of funds with which to reward States and Territories that comply with the Australian Government's interpretation of Competition Policy?
- Have some States attempted to provide a layer protection for the likes of corner stores, independent grocers and service stations, by legislating to restrict the weekend trading hours of the major grocery chains (and their wholly owned service stations)?
- Did the Australian Government then threaten the withholding of such funds from those States until such restrictions were removed, and the independents placed in line-of-sight of the fuselage from the major chains?
- Is it true that the consequence of the Australian Government's interpretation of Competition Policy has led to the accelerated closure, right around Australia, of corner stores, independent grocers and service stations?
- Is it illogical to think that if this interpretation of Competition Policy was pursued to the end-game only one grocery chain (and service station operator) would emerge the victor?

Surely the intent of Competition Policy is to increase the number of suppliers in any given field, and not to facilitate one supplier emerging as the victor.

Bob Beadman