

<b>Contact name</b>
Neville GALE
<b>Is your submission confidential?</b>
No
<b>Submission type</b>
Have Your Say
<b>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?</b>
<p>1. The effect of deregulated trading hours on competition. It is my belief the push for further deregulated trading hours by Coles and Woolworths is to increase their market share at the expense of small business. Should this occur it would result in a lessening of competition as their market share grows while the independent's share declines and therefore must be seen for what it is. We have witnessed throughout Australia, the effects of deregulated hours on small business when Coles and Woolworths extend their hours. For example, when trading hours were changed in WA, thereby allowing Coles and Woolworths to trade on Sundays, my Supa IGA Supermarket in Karawara lost \$40,000 sales on Sundays (10% of the store's weekly sales) which were not recovered. Needless to say this had a devastating effect on the store's performance resulting in losses and a 10% reduction in staff.</p>
<b>Are there unwarranted regulatory impediments to competition in any sector in Australia that should be removed or altered?</b>
<p>If anything there should be increased impediments on the size of market share an organisation is allowed. Such is the dominance of market share of the supermarket business by the duopoly as to be uncompetitive, while having massive impact on growers and manufacturers in Australia.</p>
<b>Are the current competition laws working effectively to promote competitive markets, given increasing globalisation, changing market and social structures, and technological change?</b>
<p>Current laws which allow Coles and Woolworths to grow without restriction is WRONG. This results in all the new sites being offered to Coles and Woolworths due to their greater ability to offer developers more than the competition can afford.</p>