

Leigh Gray
295 Elderslie road,
Brighton, Tasmania, 7030.

grocerypricesinquiry@acc.gov.au

PUBLIC SUBMISSION TO ACCC GROCERY INQUIRY BY BRIGHTON COUNCILLOR LEIGH GRAY ON 17 JUNE 2008

I write to welcome the ACCC's inquiry into the competitiveness of retail prices for standard groceries.

As a Brighton Councillor my constituents regularly raise with me their concern about the rising cost of grocery prices.

There is no doubt that battling Tasmanians are struggling with cost of living pressures particularly the increasing cost of groceries.

In fact, a survey by CHOICE last year showed that Tasmanians pay the highest cost for groceries in the country.

One of the reasons for this, I believe, is the lack of competition in the supermarket sector in Tasmania and this is why I have been campaigning to get greater competition in the sector in Tasmania and in particular to get discount supermarket chain ALDI to consider establishing in our State.

ALDI has more than 150 stores around Australia and there should be no reason why Tasmania should not also present a suitable market opportunity for them and others.

I would be very keen for the ACCC in its Inquiry to specifically address the following Tasmanian issues:

- What are the reasons for Tasmanians paying the highest grocery costs in the nation?
- Are there any barriers to entry or reasons for the lack of competition in the supermarket sector in Tasmania and if so what are they and what can be done about them?
- Are there any specific reasons or barriers to entry making it less attractive for ALDI supermarkets to enter Tasmania given their presence on the mainland and if so what can governments or others do about this?

Thank you for taking into account these Tasmanian issues and I look forward to your commentary on these.

Yours sincerely

Leigh Gray

Leigh Gray
Brighton Councillor
0418 123 785