

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

**Question: AET 27**

**Topic: Investigation into Supermarket Supply Chains**

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**Senator XENOPHON asked:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** You would acknowledge, though, that there are stories—and I cannot discuss what was discussed in camera in another committee—where there might be issues and suddenly six months down the track, after what appeared to be a bit of a blue with a major supermarket chain, the supplier is no longer required, the contract is terminated, it is not renewed. Do you acknowledge that retribution or that sort of unconscionable behaviour is difficult to prove in the context of the current legislative framework?

**Mr Sims:** I am not sure. Each case depends on its facts. We have got laws that deal with retribution and we have got laws that deal with unconscionability. I do not know whether my colleagues want to add to that.

**Senator XENOPHON:** I will not take it any further, but perhaps you could add anything further you want to say on that later.

**Answer:**

The ACCC does not have any further response to the question.