

Subject: Supermarket Prices Inquiry

Hi Secretariat

I live in metropolitan Melbourne. I do the grocery shopping for our family and have noticed some instances where items available at Aldi have been bought out by Coles and or Woolworths, or where the same items have markedly different prices. A couple of examples where major supermarket is distorting prices:

Le Pico goat cheese - Aldi St Kilda East \$5.99 (still available). Recently I noticed Coles is stocking the same item for \$9.99 in their Deli section (not available online) at Elsternwick. I assume at some point in the near future it will not be available from Aldi.

Kumato tomatoes - used to be available at Aldi St Kilda East (up until earlier this year) for \$4.99 for 500grams. Stopped being available at Aldi in early 2023. Then next month started being sold at Coles and Woolworths and selling for \$8-9 for 350g. Prices have reduced as Summer has arrived, but blatant discrepancy in price.

Mineral water - generic 1 litre Coles Mineral water was 70 cents in July, and is now \$1 a litre?

Gippsland Dairy Boysenberry Twist yoghurt - is at Aldi St Kilda East for \$6.29. Is being sold at \$7.50 in Coles and Woolworths Balaclava.

Most of the products above are produced in Australia (except Le Pico cheese). These items are regularly and significantly more expensive at Coles and Woolworths compared to Aldi. It seems that Coles and Woolworths target products which are popular or potentially cheaper at Aldi, then purchase the rights for these products and mark them up with significantly higher prices.

I would appreciate if the Committee could look at these matters to see whether they may indicate the major supermarkets have operated in an unethical or illegal manner and whether they engage in this behaviour more broadly?

Regards
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