

Written Question on Notice

Coles

At the public hearing on 28 July 2021, Coles provided the below response on page 5 of the proof Hansard transcript:

CHAIR: But is it not also the case that sometimes the suppliers—not because of anything they've done—just cannot supply the goods for a certain period? There might be droughts, there might be bushfires or there might be other events that mean they are not to be able to provide you with the quantity for that month, and you would then have to go out to market and source those goods from other places that may not have the same standards or accreditation or other quality checks in place.

Ms Bon: Well, we wouldn't source from them until they commit to our ethical sourcing policy and supplier requirements. We wouldn't have a relationship with them. It's a condition of a relationship with Coles.

CHAIR: So you are saying that you only source produce from suppliers that sign up to your conditions and policies. Is that right?

Ms Bon: All of our supplier contracts require them to comply with our ethical sourcing policy and supplier requirements.

- 1) Can you detail what specific measures Coles has in place to ensure that second and third tier suppliers comply with your ethical sourcing requirements?

Answer:

In response to the attached additional question from the Committee, the size and complex nature of our supply chain makes it impractical for us to directly monitor compliance of every supplier in our extended supply chain. However, we require our suppliers to ensure that the standards outlined in Coles' Ethical Sourcing Policy are integrated into contracts of suppliers within their own supply chain and monitored and reviewed.

Compliance with this Policy is a condition of trade for all direct suppliers of Coles.