

16 December 2011

The Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry
arff.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

**Re: Competition and Consumer Amendment (Horticultural Code of Conduct)
Bill 2011**

Growcom is the peak production horticulture industry body for Queensland. We are the only organisation in Australia to deliver services across the entire horticulture industry to businesses and organisations of all commodities, sizes and regions, as well as to associated industries in the supply chain. We are constantly in contact with growers and other horticultural business operators. As a result, we are well aware of the outlook, expectations and practical needs of our industry. We are a member of a number of state and national industry organisations and use these networks to promote our members' interests and to work on issues of common interest.

We would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposed Bill. Growcom has come together with 21 other horticulture industry bodies under the auspices of the Horticulture Taskforce to provide a united national response on this Bill.

We attach the Horticulture Taskforce's response, and highlight below the key recommendations:

- **Wholesalers must be compelled to act as either merchants or agents.**
- **All transactions should be subject to a code, including those transactions made under agreements prior to 15 December 2006.**
- **Dispute resolution provisions under a code need to be based on a conciliation model rather than a mediation model.**

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide feedback, and please find attached the Horticulture Taskforce's submission

Yours sincerely

Alex Livingstone
Chief Executive Officer