

SUBMISSION NO. 20
Horticultural Code and
Farm Gate to Plate



Tasmania

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Level 10, Executive Building
15 Murray St
Hobart Tas 7000
Ph: 03 6233 6454 Fax: 03 6233 2272



22 DEC 2011

The Hon Dick Adams MP
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Chair 

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2011 alerting me to the inquiry your Committee is holding into the two Bills introduced to the House of Representatives by the Hon Bob Katter MP on 19 September 2011.

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts made a submission to the Australian Senate Economics Committee Inquiry on the *Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill 2011*. A copy of this submission (number 4) dated October 2011 can be downloaded from the Senate website.

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment does not intend to make a separate submission to your inquiry on the *Competition and Consumer Amendment (Horticulture Code of Conduct Bill 2011)*, and instead offers the following observations:

- Horticulture producers in Tasmania sell their produce through a variety of means including directly to supermarkets, wholesale markets or through agents. The food supply chain is complex and therefore it is beneficial to all parties to have a sound level of transparency in transactions.
- The *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* already establishes minimum requirements (under the Horticulture Code of Conduct) for horticulture produce agreements.
- The proposed amendments could potentially increase compliance costs for industry and reduce market flexibility.

Yours sincerely

Bryan Green MP
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER