



Set an Australian  
location for local news  
and weather

## Treasurer Joe Hockey was concerned GrainCorp bidder Archer Daniel Midland 'not of good character'

*Updated Thu 24 Apr 2014, 10:36am AEST*

**The Federal Treasurer has revealed he blocked a foreign takeover bid for GrainCorp partly because the US-based company was "not of good character".**

Joe Hockey knocked back the proposal by Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) late last year, drawing criticism from the Opposition and several business groups.

At the time, Mr Hockey said the \$3.4 billion takeover was not in the national interest.

But at a function in Sydney on Wednesday night he went further, saying the company needed to show it could be a good corporate citizen.

"I had reason to believe that ADM at that time were not of particularly good character, and that was obviously confirmed by a fine in the US," he said.

"I think it was for \$50 million for corrupt activity in another jurisdiction."

The Foreign Investment Review Board had been unable to reach consensus on whether to accept ADM's proposal.

The Nationals and farm groups were opposed to the takeover, which would have given ADM control of 85 per cent of Australia's east coast grain ports.

The refusal meant a \$200 million commitment from ADM to improve rail infrastructure was withdrawn.

Despite the decision, the Government maintained Australia was still "open for business".

Mr Hockey says he has approved more than 500 investments that he believes are good for Australia.

**Topics:**agribusiness, industry, wheat, takeovers, business-economics-and-finance, australia, united-states

*First posted Wed 23 Apr 2014, 10:57pm AEST*