

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 84

Topic: Acquisitions in the grocery sector

Hansard Page: E111 (02/06/2010)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY—I will just finish these questions about unconscionable conduct. Does the commission consider unconscionable conduct a priority enforcement area?

Mr Samuel—I think I covered that in my opening statement, Senator, as to our position there.

Senator BUSHBY—Some of these have been asked already. Senator Joyce asked them. Can the commission indicate how many acquisitions it has considered in the grocery sector by reference to local markets since the last estimates?

Mr Cassidy—Again, Senator, it might be easiest if we take that on notice.

Mr Grimwade—Look, I think we will have to take that on notice. It would be a handful, I imagine, if not that.

Answer:

Between 10 February 2010 and 30 June 2010 the ACCC considered five proposed acquisitions involving seven supermarket development sites or existing supermarket stores. Two proposed acquisitions were considered on a confidential basis. Each of these five proposed acquisitions were considered in the context of local market issues. As at 30 June 2010 the ACCC is investigating one further acquisition and monitoring two possible acquisitions.

Between 10 February 2010 and 30 June 2010 the ACCC considered proposed acquisitions of three liquor stores. One matter was considered on a confidential basis. Each of these three proposed acquisitions were considered in the context of local market issues. As at 30 June 2010 the ACCC is investigating one further acquisition.