



**Economics and Industry
Standing Committee**

Progress Report

on the

**INQUIRY INTO THE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
OF FOODSTUFFS**

PRESENTED BY:

JAYE RADISICH, MLA

Laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly
on 23 June 2005

2005

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Principal Research Officer Research Officer	Dr Karen Hall, B Sc, Ph D Jovita Hogan, BA (Hons)
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1. COMMITTEE INQUIRY

On Wednesday 1 June 2005, the Legislative Assembly referred the following inquiry to the Economics and Industry Standing Committee -

- “ The Economics and Industry Standing Committee review and report to the Assembly on -
- (a) the market dominance of major food retail chains in Western Australia and their impact on all sections of the market, including production and wholesaling;
 - (b) the health and safety of imported foodstuffs, including fruit and vegetables and whether the standards applied in the country of origin are comparable with standards required in Australia;
 - (c) the labelling of foodstuffs and their origins to identify the location where produce is grown and packed;
 - (d) any other issue relevant to the production of fruit and vegetables and protection of food standards in Western Australia; and
 - (e) the role of, and mechanisms available to, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to restrict market dominance and tackle anti-competitive behaviour along with the effect of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cwlth) on production and marketing, and to recommend any changes that should be made to the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cwlth).
- ”.

Since this date, the Committee has advertised for submissions and commenced consideration of the inquiry terms of reference.

2. COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Further to this consideration, the following resolution was agreed by the Committee at a meeting on Wednesday, 22 June 2005 in relation to term of reference (c) above -

- “ (1) That legal expertise be engaged to provide legal advice to the Committee on -
- (a) the implications of Country of Origin Labelling (COOL) on all fresh produce available for sale in WA, including consideration of such factors as International Trade, Trade Practices, Agriculture, Health, Fair Trading, and any other matter that may affect the implementation of COOL of fresh produce in WA;
 - (b) whether COOL falls within the Federal, State or Local Government jurisdiction, or a combination of the above;

- (c) the current status of legislation in WA in relation to labelling requirements for fresh produce on sale in this State, whether they be locally grown, from interstate or from overseas;
 - (d) whether existing WA legislation can be used to implement COOL on the sale of fresh produce; and
 - (e) what changes are required to enable implementation of COOL, if it cannot currently be enforced through existing legislation and/or regulations.
- (2) That impediments to COOL, particularly as it relates to labelling and signage by local wholesalers and retailers, will be considered within the context of the overall inquiry.
- (3) That the Committee will report to the Parliament as soon as practicable, on the basis of the legal advice that it receives. ”.

MS JAYE RADISICH, MLA
CHAIR
ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE
23 June 2005