



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Supermarkets left out of mandatory horticulture code of conduct

The announcement of the Federal Cabinet agreeing to a mandatory horticulture code of conduct has taken most people by surprise but what is not a surprise is that it appears that supermarkets have been left out according to Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

“I have looked at the Minister for Agriculture’s release and no where does he mention the word ‘supermarkets’.

He mentions growers and wholesale traders but there is a missing link between the wholesale traders and the consumer – that being the supermarkets and this is the area of most concern,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that it is the major supermarkets that have the most market power over all other links in the chain.

“The major supermarkets control the market.

They can squeeze the wholesale trader and therefore the grower on one side because of their large buying power and then they set the price the consumer will pay for the produce on the other side.

Any ‘mandatory’ code that doesn’t include the supermarkets is not going to level the playing field at all,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is dismayed at the way the Minister has announced the so-called ‘mandatory’ code of conduct.

“I really can’t understand how the Minister can stand there and look horticulture people in the eye and tell them that he has delivered on their election promise.

When the ex-Deputy PM John Anderson promised the government would deliver a mandatory horticulture code, he said it would include the supermarkets. He confirmed this from the backbench last year.

The current Minister for Agriculture Peter McGauran has been forced to back-down on including the supermarkets by his Liberal cabinet colleagues, and he has therefore backed down on the mandatory code itself,” Mr Windsor said.

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