



Australian National  
Retailers Association

# MEDIA RELEASE

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*ANRA is the voice of Australia's leading retailers*

Tuesday, 16 March 2010

## **Choice's supermarket ombudsman plan is a 'carbon copy' of ACCC**

A supermarket ombudsman would be an unnecessary duplication of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and state-based consumer bodies, the Australian National Retailers Association said today.

"Choice's sketchy proposal appears to just be a carbon copy of the powers and responsibilities currently held by the competition watch dog," ANRA CEO Margy Osmond said today.

"Choice's plan would just create another layer of bureaucracy, the cost of which would land in the laps of taxpayers and consumers.

"The major retailers welcome scrutiny and always have. The major supermarkets fully participated in the extensive and exhaustive ACCC inquiry into grocery competition in 2008 which found the market was competitive. Since that time, a number of new players have entered and expanded in the Australian grocery market which is a true sign of competition.

"The major supermarkets have worked hard to attract consumers, by introducing more price transparency, including unit pricing and state and national consistent prices on thousands of product lines. This is a clear example of competition at work and will only continue as new players like Costco and Aldi continue to expand in the Australian market," Margy Osmond said.

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