

Agricultural competition policy session announced at the Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference 2014



Australia's Independent Farm  
Policy Research Institute

## Media Release

### Competition policy - How can Australia find the right balance to optimise economic benefits?



One of the most significant policy issues currently being reviewed by the Australian Government concerns the future of competition policy in Australia. This issue is particularly relevant to agriculture, given the past-history of statutory marketing arrangements, the industry deregulation that occurred throughout the 1990s, and the current structure of many of the markets in which Australian farmers are involved.

The outcome of the current review has the potential to impact on farm businesses and downstream processors both immediately and over the longer term, so it is important for industry participants to obtain a good understanding of the issues involved, and the potential outcomes.

This topic will be discussed at the second session of the forthcoming Australian Agriculture Roundtable Conference.

**Confirmed speakers include:**

**Rod Sims**, Chairman, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). Rod has played a leading role in ACCC actions against major supermarket retailers, and has been vocal in promoting changes to competition laws associated with misuse of market power and unconscionable conduct by dominant market participants.

**Gary Dawson**, Chief Executive, Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC). The AFGC has been at the forefront of efforts to develop a voluntary code for Australian retailers that deals specifically with relationships between major retailers and their farmer and other suppliers.

**Su McCluskey**, Competition Policy Review. Su is Chief Executive of the Regional Australia Institute and was previously a senior staff member of the National Farmers' Federation. She is currently a member of the review panel looking at the future of competition laws in Australia.

The winners of the 2014 John Ralph Essay Competition will be announced at the conference dinner on Wednesday, 12 November, 2014.

More information is available on the Australian Farm Institute's [website](#), via email or by phoning (02) 9690 1388.

Media are welcome at the conference - please register with Kylie Smith on (02) 9690 1388 to guarantee a place on the media table.



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