



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

Friday, 5 March 2010

More grocery competition in Sydney market

The Rudd Government welcomes the announcement by independent supermarket group, Spar, that it will open a flagship store in Alexandria in Sydney tomorrow.

Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister Craig Emerson said the Rudd Government has been working hard to boost competition and tear down the barriers to new supermarkets starting up.

Spar has stores throughout Europe and other parts of the world, and now has more than 100 stores operating throughout Queensland and NSW.

“The Rudd Government’s attitude is competition between supermarkets is good for consumers, and more competition is better,” Dr Emerson said.

The Government’s pro-competitive reforms include:

1. Relaxation of foreign investment rules for overseas-owned supermarkets;
2. The removal of restrictive clauses in tenancy agreements between major supermarket chains and shopping centre owners that inhibited the entry of rivals;
3. The agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to begin removing unwarranted anti-competitive provisions in planning and zoning laws;
4. The announcement of amendments to the competition laws to address the issue of creeping acquisitions; and
5. The introduction of compulsory unit pricing in large supermarkets to empower consumers to identify the supermarket items representing the best value for money.

The government will not relent in introducing more competition into grocery retailing.

“The entry of a Spar flagship store in inner Sydney will help consumers drive their dollar further,” Dr Emerson said.

Media contact: Lisa Mullins, Minister's Office, 0413 423 210