

26 May 2022

Committee Secretariat

Economic Development, Science

and Innovation Committee

Parliament Buildings

Wellington

**SUBMISSION on Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill**

1. **Introduction**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill. This submission is from Consumer NZ, an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to advocating on behalf of New Zealand consumers. Consumer NZ has a reputation for being fair, impartial and providing comprehensive consumer information and advice.

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1. **Comments on the Bill**

We strongly support the introduction of the Commerce (Grocery Sector Covenants) Amendment Bill (the Bill).

In previous submissions on the market study into the grocery sector we supported amendments to the Commerce Act to ensure the major grocery retailers are prevented from using restrictive and exclusivity covenants to frustrate competing retail grocery store development. We continue to support these amendments.

We also support the fact the Bill will apply to both new and existing covenants.

We have no specific comments on the wording of the Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

*ENDS*