

The ACCC therefore suggested that particular regard needed to be taken how competition could be enhanced by facilitating easier entry of new supermarket operators into areas where they have not previously traded.

The ACCC also considered the issue of “creeping acquisitions” which generally refers to the practice of acquiring businesses over a period of time that do not give rise to competitive concerns because the rivalry is too small to be regarded as a lessening of competition. The ACCC did not see that there is a major concern in the market at the present time but did support the introduction of new general creeping acquisition laws because this may be a problem in the future.

## Summary

- The supermarket industry would benefit overall from increased competition.
- There are factors other than the dominance of the major chains that have caused an increase in prices. These factors include the drought, petrol rices and the overseas commodity boom.
- The Federal Government will establish a ‘Grocery Choice’ website to enable consumers to establish the best prices in their area
- Unit pricing will be introduced and this will impose an additional cost for retailers
- It is recommended that planning laws are reviewed at all levels of Government to provide easier entry into the market which should enhance competition
- Creeping acquisition laws should be strengthened to protect against a reduction of competition over a period of time.

**For the full report go to [www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au) or alternatively a link is available on [www.mga.asn.au](http://www.mga.asn.au) website**

## Unit Pricing & POS Vendors

At the recent Metcash Expo on Queensland’s Gold Coast SSA and Worldsmart retail supporting over 4000 retailers both showed examples of unit pricing that they have prepared in advance of the legislation.

The MGA suggests all retailers familiarise themselves with the options that are becoming available from your POS vendor and make sure you are in a position to commence with unit pricing when required.

## MGA Appoints Industry Insurance Provider

Following a rigorous tender process and detailed assessment of prospective suppliers, MGA is pleased to confirm the appointment of Austbrokers – Stateplan as our preferred insurance provider.

The partnership will facilitate an MGA branded specialist insurance service that includes an extensive range of industry specific insurance products.

In addition, the service will also include access to workers compensation, corporate superannuation and financial planning specialists. Austbrokers – Stateplan has a long term association with supermarkets and has been able to demonstrate a profound understanding of the risks associated with our industry as well as the most appropriate mitigation strategies.

**Members will have easy access to a specialised service that provides advice on:**

- ☑ Property cover.
- ☑ Obligations regarding management liability.
- ☑ Corporate travel insurance options.
- ☑ Coverage for business interruption.
- ☑ Workers compensation  
- compliance and claims management matters.
- ☑ Corporate superannuation  
- particularly employer obligations.
- ☑ Financial planning.
- ☑ Establishing appropriate self managed super funds

