



# ACCC *update*

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## **In this issue**

- 1** Global mergers
- 4** Appointments
- 5** Retail sector inquiry
- 6** Self-declared environmental claims
- 7** Cosmetic surgery inquiry
- 8** What's happening in the electricity market?
- 10** ACCC's international activities
- 12** Books, computer software and newsagents

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission operates nationally at the forefront of administration and enforcement of competition and consumer protection law.

Legislative changes have given the Commission new regulatory roles in many sectors — such as the electricity, gas and telecommunications industries. See pages 8 and 9 for an overview of the current state of play in the electricity industry.

A future change for which the Commission is already gearing up is the price monitoring and anti price-exploitation role it is to be given for the transition to incorporation of a GST into the tax system. This issue introduces the Commission's recently-appointed GST program head.

The cover story is on global mergers and is an insight into the Commission's approach when assessing whether they will be anti-competitive.

The Trade Practices Act covers all businesses in Australia, including government enterprises and many thousands of previously exempt unincorporated firms such as professional practices.

The continuing growth in responsibilities imposes new and wider obligations on the Commission to inform the public about its activities. It is important that businesses, and their customers, be well informed about rights and obligations under the law.

ACCC *update* is published to give the wider community general information about the Commission's work and responsibilities.

Much more detailed information is available in the wide range of ACCC publications (available from all the offices listed at the back) or from the Commission's regularly updated website at <http://www.accc.gov.au>.