

**Petreski, Sonya**

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**From:** Jacobsen, Geesche  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2020 3:53 PM  
**To:** Hannan, Ewin  
**Cc:** ACCC media  
**Subject:** Inquiry from the Australian re ACCC letter in response to editorial [SEC=OFFICIAL] [ACCC-ACCCANDAER.FID2066051]

**Contacts:** Ewin Hannan - The Australian  
**Security Classification:** OFFICIAL

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Ewin,

As discussed.

On background:

It came to the ACCC's attention that a member of the trucking industry published comments in an industry publication. These included calling for owner drivers to stick together and not undercut each other as "we can't afford rates to be lowered anywhere in the industry".

You can also find some more information about cartels [on our website](#).

**For attribution to a spokesperson for the ACCC:**

The ACCC has concerns about any public comments addressed to competitors which encourage arrangements to maintain prices.

Maintaining competition keeps prices down for consumers. Contravention of the cartel provisions of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 is a criminal offence and carries serious criminal and civil penalties. The ACCC is highly conscious of the impact COVID-19 is having on Australian customers and businesses. The ACCC will continue to monitor attempts to form arrangements with the purpose of fixing, controlling or maintaining prices and take action where appropriate.

**Geesche Jacobsen**

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The ACCC acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to their Elders past, present and future.