

ACCC's 2022/2023 Compliance and Enforcement Priorities

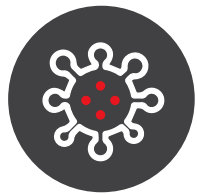
On 3 March 2022, the Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Rod Sims, announced the ACCC's 2022/2023 enforcement and compliance priorities and confirmed its enduring priorities. The priorities span across both competition and consumer issues, many arising from the impacts of COVID-19.

ENFORCEMENT PRIORITIES 2022



NEW!

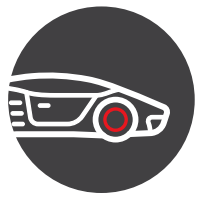
Greenwashing - consumer and fair-trading issues relating to environmental claims and sustainability regarding consumer goods and the manufacturing and energy sectors.



COVID-19 - competition and consumer law issues in the context of the pandemic.



Essential services - competition and consumer issues arising from the pricing and selling of energy, telecommunications and other essential services.



Consumer guarantees - empowering consumers and improving industry compliance with the consumer guarantees, with a focus on high value goods including motor vehicles and caravans.



Digital economy - competition and consumer issues relating to digital platforms including issues relating to payments, search, apps and adtech.



NEW!

Supply chains - competition issues in global and domestic supply chains - particularly where they are disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Financial Services - promoting competition and investigating allegations of anti-competitive conduct in the financial services sector, with a focus on payment services.



NEW!

Exclusive arrangements by firms with market power that impact competition.



Small business - Ensuring small businesses receive the protections of competition and consumer law and industry codes of conduct - including in agriculture and franchising.



Button batteries - Compliance with the button battery safety standards.



Product safety and children - product safety issues for young children - focussing on compliance, enforcement, and education initiatives.

ENDURING PRIORITIES 2022



Cartel conduct in Australia - including a focus on international cartels that involving Australians, Australian businesses or entities carrying on business in Australia.



Anti-competitive conduct - including anti-competitive agreements and practices, as well as misuse of market power.



Product safety - prioritising those that have potential to cause serious consumer harm.



Consumers experiencing **vulnerability or disadvantage** - and conduct impacting them.



Conduct impacting **Indigenous Australians** - including the particular challenges faced by those in remote areas.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. COVID-19 continues to impact the ACCC's priorities
2. The ACCC's new focus on competition in global and domestic supply chains reflects its continued tough stance on collusive conduct
3. Exclusive arrangements by firms with market power are under the ACCC's microscope
4. The ACCC will actively pursue competition and consumer law reforms regarding digital platforms, mergers and the ACL
5. Misleading and deceptive conduct are in the ACCC's sights especially regarding environmental claims and the digital economy

PRACTICE TIP

Companies should keep abreast of the ACCC's enforcement priorities which affect their sector or industry as well as remaining aware of the ACCC's enduring priorities focusing on collusion, anti-competitive conduct and product safety.

For more information, see:

[ACCC's 2022-23 Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Priorities and Speech.](#)

For more detailed analysis of the ACCC's yearly compliance and enforcement and enduring priorities, visit [Practical Guidance - Competition](#) and [Practical Guidance - Consumer](#).

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