

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 August 2023 1:46 pm
To: Competition
Subject: Collaboration and Sustainability Guidelines

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Hello,

This feedback is very off the cuff as I only heard about these draft guidelines an hour ago and the deadline is 3 hours from now... so please forgive the lack of detail but hopefully you get the general feeling.

You say: "The purpose of the Commerce Act 1986 (Commerce Act) is to promote competition in markets for the long-term benefit of consumers in New Zealand. Competition is the process of rivalry between firms that leads them to offer better products, lower prices and drives them to innovate. The Commission's competition functions include educating consumers and businesses, and investigating and enforcing provisions of the Commerce Act that are designed to protect competition. These include provisions that prohibit anti-competitive agreements, mergers, and misuse of market power. The Commission also carries out market studies."

I say: This process of rivalry you're so fond of has brought the world to the brink of destruction. If the law actually wants to promote rivalry, where driving down prices is a main goal, apparently regardless of how much damage is being done in the world to achieve that, then the law itself is a product of flawed thinking of the unsustainable Milton Keynes economic theories. This almost 40-year-old law from 1986 is not fit for purpose in 2023 when the results of this toxic competition are all too obvious. Why are you so keen to protect the concept of competition and apparently not bothered at all with protecting the very planet we all live upon? I urge you to promote cooperation and collaboration between businesses with a view to meeting sustainable development goals. How on earth will NZ ever meet its emissions obligations if we do not?

You say: *"Competition is a key driver of value, innovation, and productivity in markets, and generally creates better outcomes for New Zealanders...."*

I say: "Nonsense. Competition is a key driver of the climate crisis and this is NOT a better outcome for New Zealanders."

Basically, please don't inhibit cooperation and more sustainable business practices. We do not have time for that if we want to address the world's biggest challenges.

Thanks and best wishes, 

