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Competition Policy Unit Treasury Langton Cres PARKES ACT 2600 Locked Bag 56 St Marys Delivery Centre NSW 2760

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## ALDI Australia Response to Consultation on the Mandatory Food and Grocery Code - Exposure Draft Regulations

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to Treasury as part of your review of the Food and Grocery Code of Conduct. ALDI is appreciative of the consultation provided throughout this process and will continue to participate as legislation development commences.

ALDI places high value on collaborative, long term supply partnerships that are mutually beneficial. We set high standards when it comes to collaborating with our supply partners, and we have a reputation of being a fair and respectful partner to them. ALDI has always been a willing participant of the Code and fully intends to remain so into the future.

We support the Code becoming mandatory, as these changes reflect our ongoing commitment to our supply partners. We also support the recommendations made in Dr Emerson's Report and provide in-principle agreement for the dispute resolution arrangements. This includes participation in independent arbitration, should it ever be required, and to be bound by the decision of the Code Mediator.

ALDI believes that a key consideration when implementing an expanded Food and Grocery Code of Conduct is to do so with minimal additional cost and resource implications for retailers and suppliers. In preparation of the new regulations coming into effect from 1 April 2025, our team will begin review of relevant documentation to ensure we maintain our high operating standards as well as our reputation among all our stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

**Jordan Lack** Managing Director – Buying ALDI Stores Australia