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Mr John Young  
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Legislative Council of NSW  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Ref MO M08/2274  
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Dear Mr Young

I refer to the request by the Standing Committee on State Development that representatives of the Office of Fair Trading appear to give evidence at the Inquiry into nanotechnology in New South Wales.

There are two potential regulatory issues relating to nanotechnology that are relevant to the statutory responsibilities of the Office of Fair Trading; namely, metrology and product safety. I am advised that the National Institute of Metrology implements the Australian nano-metrology program and that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is maintaining a watching brief for the product safety implications of nanotechnology. No action is taking place at State level.

It can be expected that any regulatory activity concerning nanotechnology will be undertaken at a national level, in line with the commitments made by the Council of Australian Governments to introduce national regulatory frameworks for product safety, trade measurement and consumer policy generally. Under the circumstances I do not believe that the Office of Fair Trading can make any further contribution to the Inquiry by giving evidence beyond the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Baker  
Commissioner for Fair Trading

29 May 2008