

23 November 2006



Legislative Council
Standing Committee on Law and Justice

**LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE TABLES
REPORT ON UNFAIR TERMS IN CONSUMER
CONTRACTS**

The Chair of the Law and Justice Committee, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC, announced that the Committee's report on unfair terms in consumer contracts has been tabled in the Legislative Council today.

Ms Robertson said, "The Committee heard overwhelming evidence that unfair terms in consumer contracts are not adequately addressed by the current regulatory framework in New South Wales. The majority of Inquiry participants expressed strong support for additional protection for consumers."

"The Committee has recommended that New South Wales adopt specific legislation, similar to the scheme that has been adopted in Victoria and in the UK, to ensure that consumers rights are protected," Ms Robertson said.

The Victorian model was favoured by the majority of submission makers and witnesses that advocated for the introduction of specific purpose legislation in NSW. A number of Inquiry participants emphasised the need for consistency between jurisdictions in implementing specific unfair terms legislation, particularly in the absence of a national scheme.

"Therefore, the Committee has recommended that the NSW Government model its amendment to the *Fair Trading Act 1987* (NSW), to establish a scheme for the protection of consumers in relation to unfair terms in consumer contracts, on Part 2B of the *Fair Trading Act 1999* (Vic)," Ms Robertson said.

A copy of the electronic report can be obtained from the Committee's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice . Hard copies are available on request from the Committee Secretariat on 02 9230 3311 or email lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au .

*For further comment please contact the Hon Christine Robertson MLC,
Committee Chair, on 0428674310*

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