BOOK REVIEW

Adrian Coorey AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER COMMISSION

Australian Competition Law
By Dr Alex Bruce

Australian Competition Law is an ideal book for legal practitioners and for academic students who are studying competition law in Australia for the first time. The text is short, sharp and succinctly written. It provides a clear and concise explanation of complex economic concepts and legal principles and covers a wide variety of mainstream topics in Australian competition law.

The text is uniquely written, captivating and easy to read. It provides the reader with an excellent historical overview of competition law, including a historical review of possibly the world’s first antitrust trial. This is followed by a number of short chapters that focus on providing a straightforward explanation of complex concepts, such as market definition, market power and substantial lessening of competition.

The book also examines in some detail the range of Australian competition provisions, as set out in the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth). Entire chapters are devoted to each of the main competition law topics, including cartel regulation, misuse of market power, exclusive dealing and merger regulation. These chapters are well structured and intentionally avoid the reference to “thousands of cases” and painful scrutiny of every word in the competition provisions, yet they include practical and theoretical analysis of important recent decisions, such as Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) v Metcash Trading Ltd\(^1\) and Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) v Link Solutions Pty Ltd (No 3).\(^2\)

In addition, the text provides an excellent overview of public enforcement, policy and procedures, along with a review of private remedies available to litigants. These particular topics — and others — should appeal to audiences in economics and policy as well as law.

This second edition of Australian Competition Law also includes two new chapters on the access regime and understanding competition law and cases. These chapters assist in making this text a more comprehensive review of Australian competition law and an excellent read for those who are thinking about making a career in this important area.

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Footnotes