

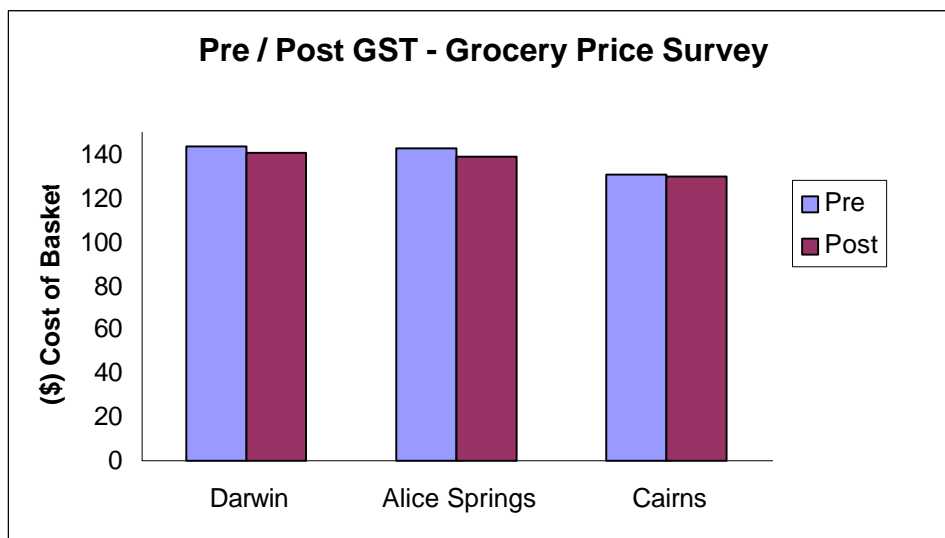
# Grocery Price Survey

## *Pre / Post GST*

The preliminary Pre / Post GST Grocery Price Survey follows the same methodology as previous quarterly grocery price surveys and was conducted on the days of the 30th June and 10th July 2000. The survey was carried out at selected supermarkets in Darwin, all major supermarkets in Alice Springs and selected supermarkets in Cairns.

While care needs to be taken when comparing results over time, the preliminary Pre / Post GST results show that:

- On average the total cost of the basket of goods decreased slightly in all locations surveyed over the pre / post GST period. This was in-line with Treasury expectations of a slight decrease in the total cost of the basket and other general comments regarding expected movement in grocery prices by the ACCC.
- No grocery items surveyed, that **were subject to the GST**, increased by more than 10%. Despite this, some items did increase in price by more than what was expected. These items will be monitored by Treasury between now and the next regular survey period.
- Some grocery items surveyed, that **were not subject to the GST**, did increase in price, (for example some fresh fruit and vegetable items), or didn't decrease in price as was expected. These variations can most likely be explained by fluctuating seasonal conditions, especially for items in the fresh fruit and vegetables group.



- On average the cost of the basket in Darwin decreased 1.9% over the pre / post GST survey period;
- On average the cost of the basket in Alice Springs decreased 2.9% over the pre /post GST survey period;
- On average the cost of the basket in Cairns decreased 1.0% over the pre / post GST survey period;
- While the falls in Darwin and Alice Springs are welcomed, in all centres prices increased between

the June Quarter survey and the 30 June survey, such that prices in Darwin and Alice Springs are now generally back to the same level as in the March quarter.

### Darwin

- The average cost of the total basket in Darwin at 10 July 2000 was \$140.47 compared to \$143.17 at 30 June 2000. The cost of the basket decreased by 4.6% at Bi-Lo - Casuarina, and by 2.1% at Woolworths - Nightcliff, while an increase of 1.1% was recorded at Coles - Karama. Analysis of the results for Coles - Karama show that the major increases in prices over the period were in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetables group. These increases are most likely attributable to seasonal fluctuations and the use of “specials” on 30 June.

### Alice Springs

- The average cost of the total basket in Alice Springs at 10 July 2000 was \$138.66 compared to \$142.85 at 30 June 2000. The cost of the basket decreased at all stores surveyed with Woolworths recording a 5.6% decrease, Bi-Lo a 2.7% decrease and Coles a 0.5% decrease.

### Cairns

- The average cost of the total basket in Cairns at 10 July 2000 was \$129.84 compared to \$131.18 at 30 June 2000. The cost of the basket decreased by 2.3% at Woolworths - Stockland, by 1.8% at Coles - Central, and by 1.6% at Franklins - Stockland, while an increase of 1.6% was recorded at Bi-Lo - Central. Analysis of the results for Bi-Lo – Central show that the major increases in prices over the period were in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetables group. These increases are most likely attributable to seasonal fluctuations and the use of “specials” on 30 June.

## Cost of Total Basket by Outlet

Outlet - Name			March Qtr	June Qtr	30-Jun	10-Jul	Pre/Post
			(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	Var (%)
Darwin	Bi-Lo	Casuarina	140.63	141.98	144.45	137.76	-4.6
Darwin	Woolworths	Nightcliff	138.55	141.73	142.52	139.56	-2.1
Darwin	Coles	Karama	143.32	140.28	142.55	144.10	1.1
<b>*Darwin Average</b>			<b>140.83</b>	<b>141.33</b>	<b>143.17</b>	<b>140.47</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Alice Springs	Woolworths		136.95	139.50	140.99	133.16	-5.6
Alice Springs	Bi-Lo		137.59	138.31	145.19	141.21	-2.7
Alice Springs	Coles		141.31	139.65	142.36	141.61	-0.5
<b>Alice Springs Average</b>			<b>138.62</b>	<b>139.15</b>	<b>142.85</b>	<b>138.66</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Cairns	Woolworths	Stocklands	133.68	129.17	132.95	129.94	-2.3
Cairns	Coles	Central	134.19	132.62	135.37	133.00	-1.8
Cairns	Franklins	Stocklands	128.37	130.23	129.16	127.12	-1.6
Cairns	Bi-Lo	Central	129.84	131.42	127.23	129.28	1.6
<b>Cairns Average</b>			<b>131.52</b>	<b>130.86</b>	<b>131.18</b>	<b>129.84</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

\* The Darwin average is of the three stores listed, not the ten Darwin stores as in the quarterly grocery price survey.

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