

## “Legalised extortion of small Australian country businesses,” says Dick Smith

A recent video (<https://vimeo.com/288285200>) released by Dick Smith Fair Go exposes how foreign owned multinationals are extorting millions of dollars from small family businesses in Australian country towns in the middle of the drought.

In the video Dick Smith compares this “extortion” to the protection money paid by Kings Cross hotel owners to crime gangs in the 1950s.

Dick Smith says, “This is not voluntary. Our small country family businesses are forced to sign up to these foreign booking websites, otherwise the small business will lose up to 50% of its business and be forced into bankruptcy.”

The video also exposes how the Australian ACCC has done a secret deal with these foreign multinationals that prevents small Australian family motel businesses from directly advertising cheaper prices.

Dick Smith says, “This is outrageous. Send the video to everyone. Whatever you do in future, never use one of these “leech” overseas owned booking companies that are sucking the life blood out of Australian family owned businesses in our small country towns.”

“From now on, book direct. In the meantime, send this video to everyone. We want a least a million hits to show the billionaire owners of the booking sites that Aussies are no longer going to kowtow to their greed,” says Dick Smith.

### Attachments:

1. Announcement in HM magazine “Accommodation industry slams ACCC’s ‘secret deal’ with OTAs over parity” explaining how the ACCC has kowtowed to the American multinationals. <https://www.hotelmanagement.com.au/2016/09/02/accommodation-industry-slams-accs-secret-deal-otas-parity/>
2. Announcement in Accom News by Port Douglas Direct on how \$180 million has been extorted out of the Port Douglas area in the last ten years and sent to multinationals in the Northern Hemisphere. <https://www.accomnews.com.au/2018/06/the-town-where-otas-are-considered-as-deadly-as-the-crown-of-thorns-starfish/>

**Here is a link to the video:** <https://vimeo.com/288285200>