



## **The blurring lines of private label and branded goods**

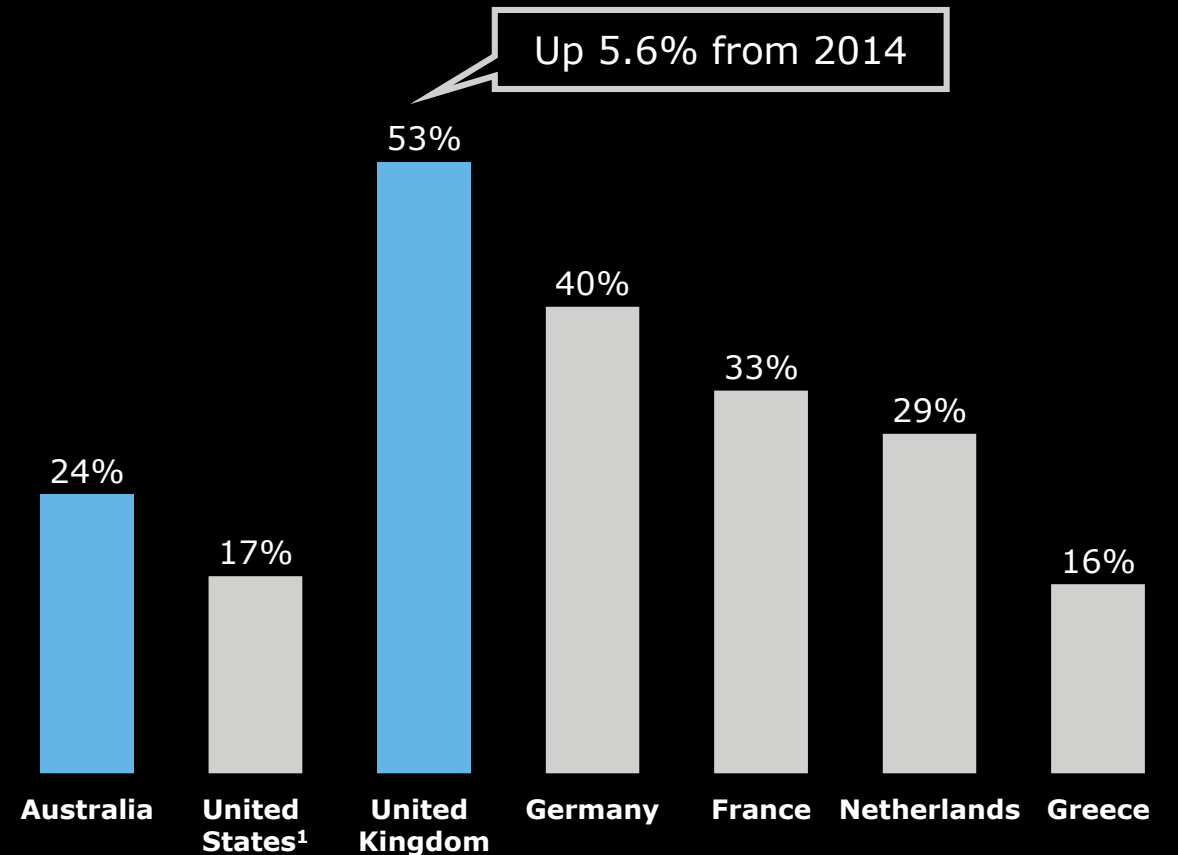
What retailers and FMCGs can learn from each other

A photograph of a person in a green jacket looking at produce in a market stall. The stall is filled with various fruits and vegetables, including artichokes, leafy greens, and tomatoes. Price tags are visible on the produce. The background shows other market stalls and lights.

Private Label growth continues to rise  
across the globe

Private Labels sales continued to grow over the last 3 years, even in mature market such as the UK...

Private label sales as a % of total retail value by country 2017



1) Data for the United States is reported for 2016  
Source: IRI, Nielsen, Insideretail

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...as multiple retailers have dramatically grown their private label business in the past years

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over  
**10%**

Kirkland Signature, the PL brand of Costco, reported sales growth of over **10%** in 2018, equal to almost **\$4 bn** in sales growth

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**6**

Since 2017, Target (US) has introduced over 20 private label brands, of which **6 brands** are generating over **\$1 bn** in annual revenues

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**81%**

Amazon private label sales grew by **81%** in **2018** (vs. 2017). Its private label **grocery** category grew by **135%**

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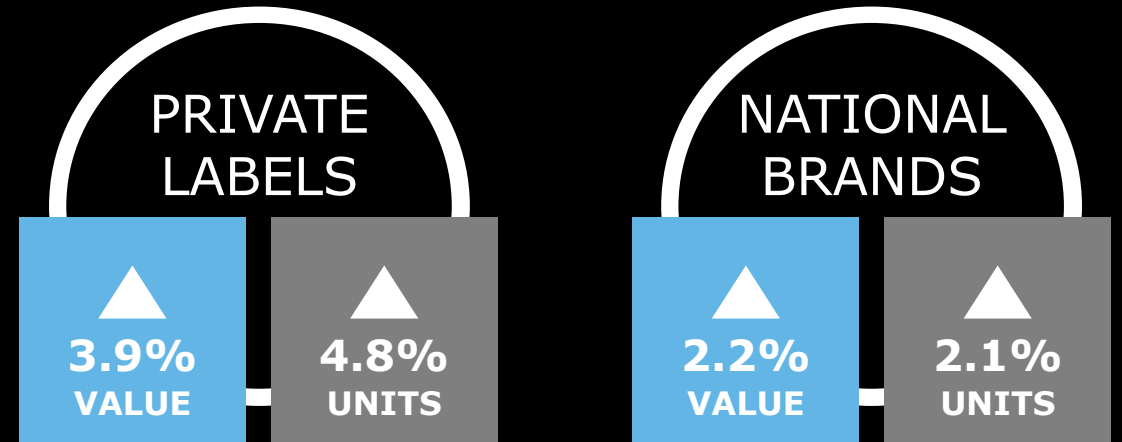
In line with global, growth in private label sales in AU outpaced branded-products...

**AU Private label vs National brand sales – MAT to April/May 2017**

Total private label dollar growth is

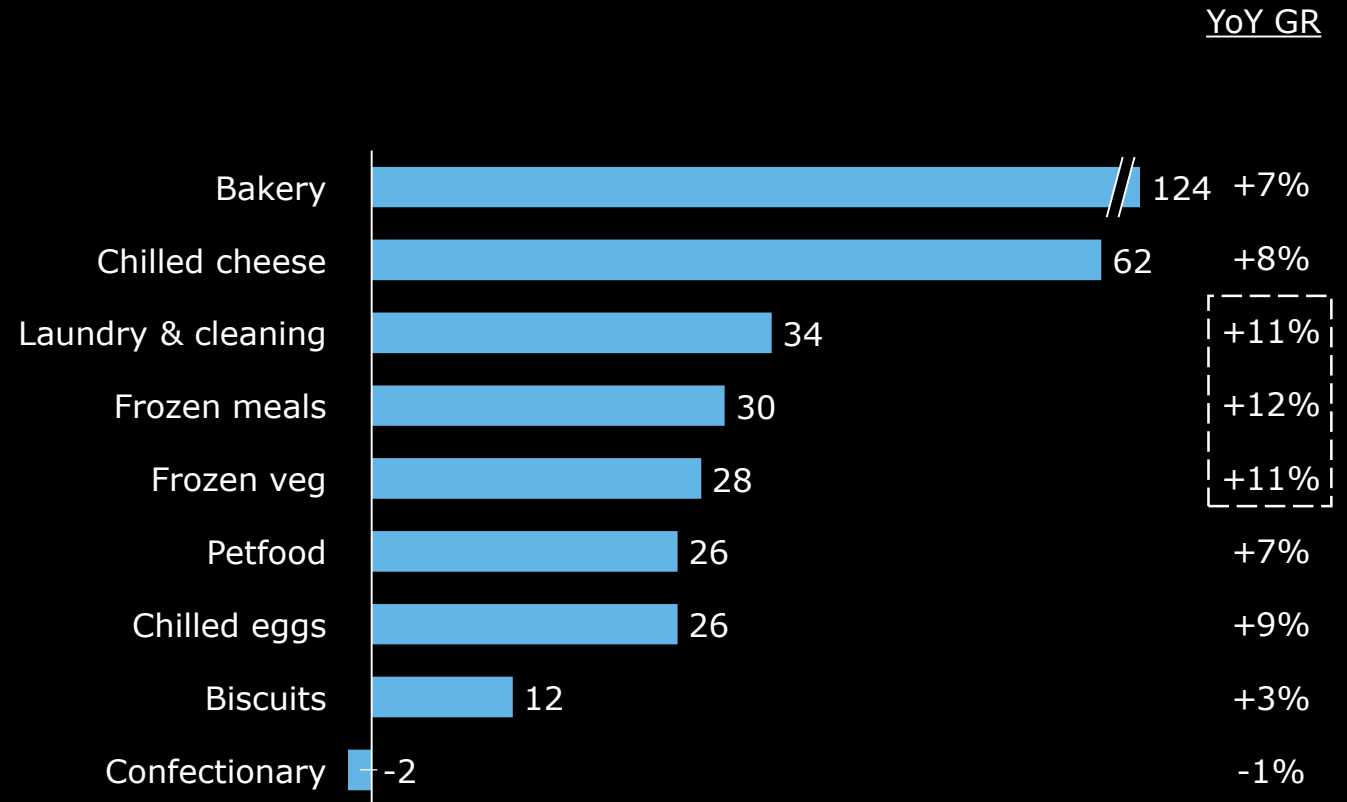
**1.8**

times higher than branded products



...especially on packaged groceries categories

**Growth of top 9 selling private label segments<sup>1</sup> in groceries**  
(in \$m and %) MAT May 2017 vs 2016



1) Ranked by sales growth

Source: IRI Marketedge (\*private label: the Rise and Evolution of private label in Australia; 2017)

# Changing consumer needs and trade structures are fuelling much of the growth

## RETAILER



Changing trade structure – need for differentiation

Margin pressure

## CONSUMER



Consumer spending – affordability

Evolving needs create white space

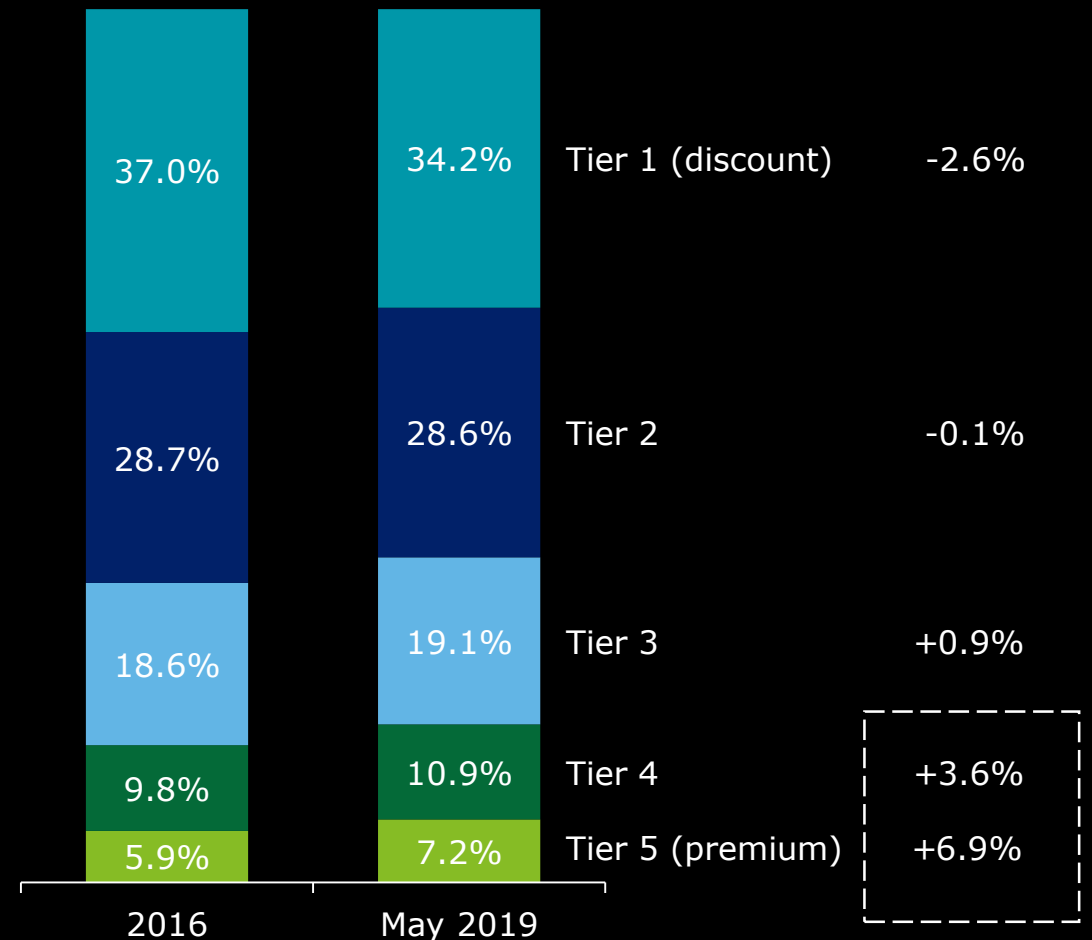
The role of Private Label continues to evolve  
and create new paths for growth



From a cheaper version to a more premiumised product...

The market share of premium tier private labels has increased over the past three years, now totalling 18.1% in the US market

Private label value share by price tier in the US market (%)  
2016 vs 2019 May / Nielsen



... positioned on the cutting edge of consumer societal trends  
i.e. innovation in convenience, health and sustainability



Source: company websites

**The blurring line of private label and branded goods** – What retailers and FMCGs can learn from each other

... positioned on the cutting edge of consumer societal trends  
i.e. innovation in convenience, health and sustainability



**Kroger's Simple Truth**  
brand was launched in 2013,  
and now represents a \$2.3B  
business leading in **natural**,  
**organic**, and **fair-trade**  
products



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**Aldi** has added several private labels (e.g. SimplyNature, Earth Grown) that offer **organic, non-GMO** and **vegan** options



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**Target's** proprietary brand **Good & Gather** launched in Sept 2019 offering **organic** and **wholefoods** and is expected to be a multi-billion dollar brand with over 2,000 new products by end of 2020,

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PL are creating **new paths** to grow by **expanding the category** or launching new ones...

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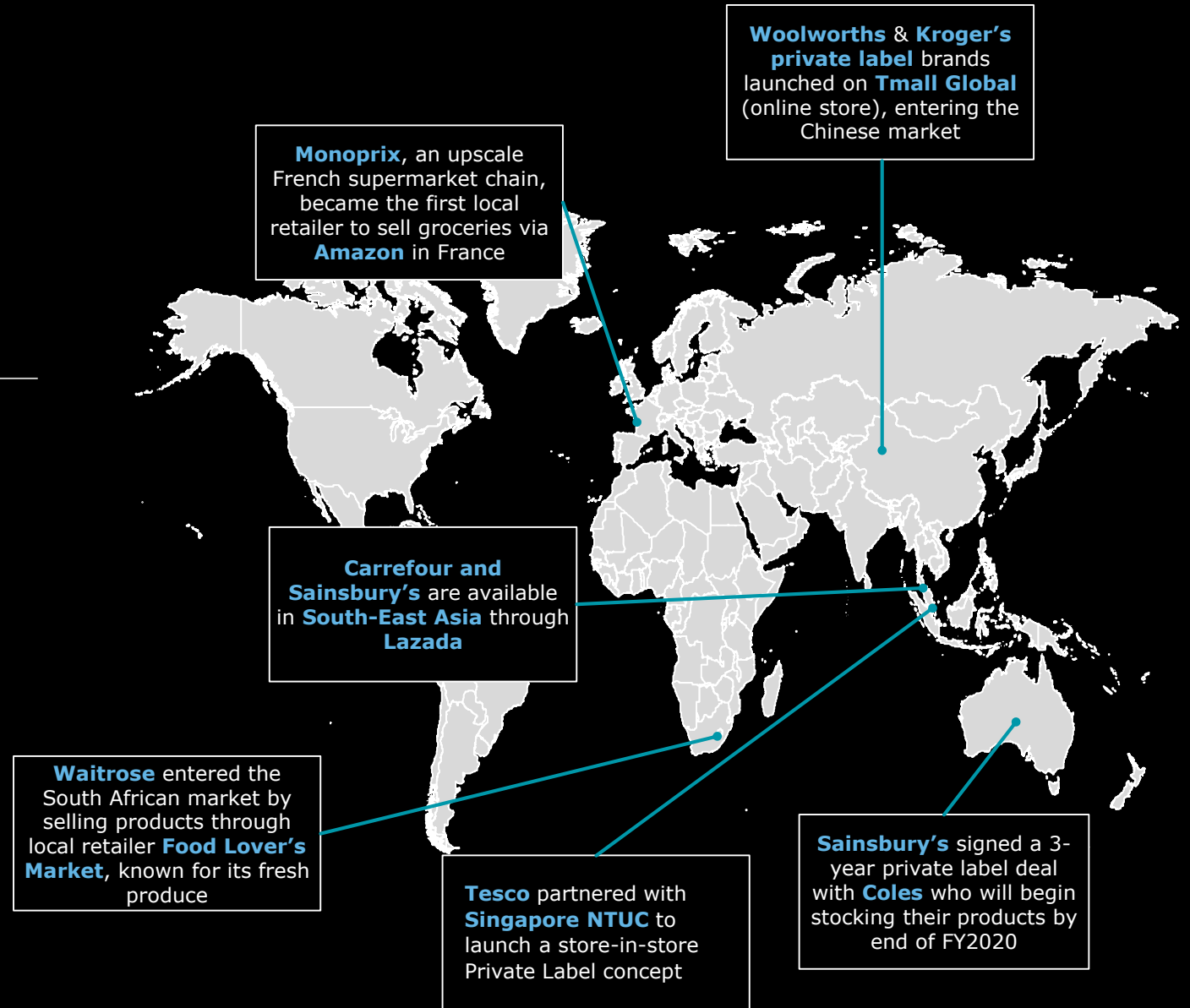


**Sainsbury's** launch of Classic Cola was a hit, with price point ~28% lower than Coca Cola, attracting new consumers with lower purchasing power



**Tesco's private label** expanded from a single brand to several, each of them targeting a specific customer segment to extract maximum value within each category

...and are increasingly creating new paths for growth by selling into **new channels/ markets**



Source: retailers websites

The blurring line of private label and branded goods – What retailers and FMCGs can learn from each other

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In doing so, Private Label  
has become truly branded

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So what can retail and FMCG learn from each other?

FMCG's core strengths are often retailer's greatest weaknesses



**BRAND  
BUILDING**

**MARKETING  
(INCL.  
DIGITAL)**

**CHANNEL  
MANAGEMENT**

**Retailers'** core strengths are often FMGC's greatest weaknesses



**SHOPPER  
INSIGHTS**

**INNOVATION  
/ SPEED TO  
MARKET**

**STRATEGIC  
SOURCING**

Moves and investments are being made by FMCGs to address these gaps...



Direct-to-consumer



Start-up incubators/  
accelerators



Blockchain / buying alliances





Direct-to-consumer

Start-up incubators/  
accelerators

**Shopper  
insights**

**Innovation**



- In 2017 **Unilever**-owned Hellmann's partnered with on-demand delivery start-up Quiqup for its first **Direct-to-consumer** trial, targeting London shoppers likely to make 'impulse purchases'
- The concept consisted of an on-demand recipe delivery via the Quiqup platform and app – consumers could **choose their favourite recipe** and get all the **fresh ingredients delivered at home in an hour**



Start-up incubators/  
accelerators

**Innovation**



- Mars Food launched its **Seeds of Change** accelerator program, designed to help US and Australian early stage food-focussed companies to develop :
  - The program focusses on **world flavors, plant-based eating, easy solutions and responsible food** – all of them being hot trends for Mars
  - Out of **200 applications**, 10 start-up were selected to be part of the incubator
  - Each selected start-up gets \$50,000 and a tailored 4-month programme to scale its operations



Blockchain / buying alliances

**Strategic  
Sourcing**



- **WG&S, an American based spirits** company, is set to implement blockchain technology to track drinks from source to store
- The new functionality will enables WG&S to tackle the **counterfeit issue** that is affecting **premium products shipped abroad**

And retailers are making moves to address the capability gaps with FMCG...



← Investment in brand management, advertising and marketing capability



← Partnerships with WeChat mini programs for social selling



**Retailers**





← Investment in brand management, advertising and marketing capability



**Retailers**



- **Loblaw (No Frills, No Name)** has been one of the few private retailer brands successfully marketing its brand end-to-end
- They started own **Media Agency** and launched No Frills 'Haulers' and No Name **campaigns** with great success



**AS Watson**, a health and beauty retailer, has used **Social selling to open up the Chinese market**

Users of Watson's mini program on WeChat can recommend and sell products to their own WeChat followers, KOL leaders use tags to promote the products

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So the PL vs Branded race continues...

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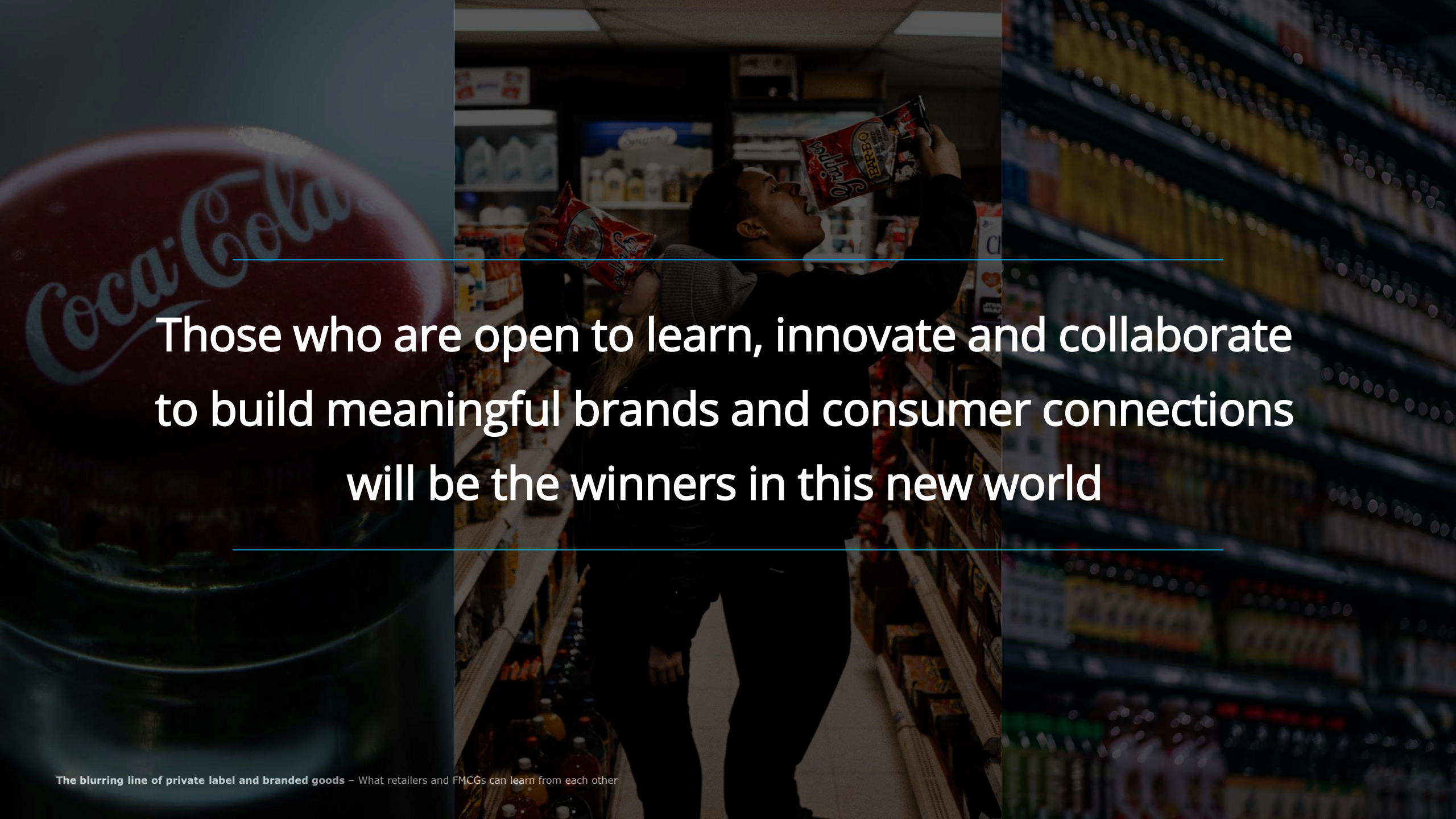
...but the game has changed

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Lines are blurring between PL and branded..  
there is much to learn from each other...  
creating new opportunities to partner

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Those who are open to learn, innovate and collaborate to build meaningful brands and consumer connections will be the winners in this new world

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