

We would like to make a submission to the Senate Committee on Milk Pricing, we have put our main concerns below in point form.

1. Loss of dairy farmers due to loss of income, our prices don't rise but the price of everything else does.
2. Loss of sales of branded milk means that the premium milk amount goes down and so does the price we get.
3. We are, unfortunately, price takers not price makers. This means that the big supermarkets will only give us so much without looking into whether it is affecting our's and many other related industries ability to be sustainable.
4. We are afraid that in the near future that most of the milk and other agricultural produce will be imported into this country because the farmers in Australia are NOT being looked after and are sick of being screwed. To put it into monetary terms when deregulation came in we were working for \$1.53 an hour, how many people are prepared to do this, most farmers do it because they love what they do. In 2006 -2007 I worked it out again and we were then working for \$8.48 an hour, or should I specify, Trevor was because I was working off farm to help pay our bills. There is no one in the supermarkets that work for that small amount. Even people on the doll get more and they don't work.
5. The price of milk is less than bottled water?????????????. 600ml bottled water to buy in the shop is anywhere between \$2.00 and \$3.60 depending on the brand.
6. Downward pressure on contract prices to supply supermarkets means we will have to take less.
7. The future of the dairy industry is not good. Our children do not want to take over the farm because they see how hard we work for such little return and it is so much easier to get paid per hour.

There are many other smaller points but those are the main and most important points. It is about time we are looked after, or suffer the high price and poor quality of imports in the near future of all basic food prices.

Trevor & Lyn Garrett