

Submission to the Senate Economics Reference Committee Enquiry into the impacts of supermarket price decisions on the dairy industry.

Following from my previous submission it has come to my attention that brand name milk has been regularly advertised for a price of \$1.69 for two litres at four local IGA supermarkets located in Albany and Denmark in Western Australia two of which are owned by each of two local businessmen. I believe that this is evidence of the ever downward pressure on the incomes of primary producers created by the over dominance of the major supermarkets creating desperate competition from businesses trying to maintain market share against their price decisions. This coupled with naive free trade agreements is impoverishing sections of Australian agriculture and industry. When a foreign worker comes to this country they must be paid Australian rates of pay so I can see no justification for Australian farmers being paid prices that deliver them third world rates of income. As a market gardener who has not been able to earn the equivalent of the minimum legal hourly rate of pay in any of the past twenty years I do have some insight into the plight of the dairy industry because the same inequitable forces are at play for the dairy industry as are at play for the horticulture industry. Politicians must begin to acknowledge that the global market place is not a level playing field and the Australian market place is not an equitable market place while the supermarket price decisions are allowed to impact to the detriment of producers in the Australian market place. For the Australian nation I believe that self sufficiency is sovereignty and this cannot be achieved unless Australian producers are paid sufficient prices to earn incomes that are equivalent to Australian rates of pay. To put some perspective on the subject I would like you to ponder how Australian politicians would fare if they were required to accept for example Chinese politicians' rates of income while incurring Australian costs and charges.

Yours sincerely,
Graeme Waugh