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Inquiry into Constitutional Corporations (Farm Gate to Plate) Bill

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) supports the intent of this Bill.

The general public have no idea when they buy foodstuffs about what proportion of the prices they have paid goes to the producer of the initial ingredients. And in fact when prices go up, the general public often blame the primary producer.

SAFF is disappointed that this Bill is limited to fresh fruit and vegetable produce. It should have been for all food and drink products. Consumers get a surprise when they find out how little grain growers get for their grain out of the price of a loaf of bread, how little dairy farmers get out of a litre of milk bought from the supermarket shelves, or even how little grape growers received for their grapes in a bottle of wine.

The general public do not realise or appreciate that primary producers are price takers, not price makers. If nothing else, it is hoped this Bill will assist in giving this understanding to the consumers.

According to Senator Xenophon, Australia has some of the highest grocery prices in the developed world. And even though grocery prices are rising, the gap between what farmers are paid and what shoppers are paying continues to grow.

Even though consumers are paying more, the number of primary producers in Australia is declining. While there are a number of reasons for this, one of the main reasons is that often the cost of production is higher than the prices paid to producers, and hence farmers going out of business.

SAFF continues to call for more competition in Australia, for the Australian Government to legislate for competition, and to restrict the 80% share that Coles and Woolworths have of the grocery trade. This is in the hope that **farmers** may get better prices for their produce.

However until this happens, it is necessary to support Bills such as this to get "*truth in pricing.*"

from the :
South Australian Farmers Federation