

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission to the investigation into Supermarket Pricing of Milk.

(a) farm gate, wholesale and retail milk prices.

I do not know what farm gate is so I cannot comment. I guess it just goes to show how secretive the Dairy Industry really is. Whilst I am enjoying the price of the cheap milk (I only shop at either Coles or Aldi regardless), I do feel that we are now in the position of having most of the milk processing now foreign owned and really all they care about is Profit. The example seen in Tasmania where National Foods tried to force the Farmers to accept less for their Milk is clearly a case in question.

We should either stop Foreign ownership of Food Companies or Ensure that Rules are clearly stipulated that protects Australian made goods. We are apparently in the situation where a Real Estate in Tasmania is now marketing Tasmanian Farms for Sale in China. Australia must be fully self supporting and this is no longer so. Professor Julius Sumner Miller asked Why Is It So and we have to revisit Foreign Investment in Australia.

We no longer have the Australian owned companies that are suitable for the investment of Superannuation Funds so our Funds have to look at other options.

There should be a full review of Foreign Investment in Australia and certain Commodities such as Dairy Products should be exempt.

(b) the decrease in production of Milk. This is obviously caused by farmers no longer getting value for money in operating their farms. If they speak up they will lose their contracts so you will find very few willing to speak up. I refuse to buy any milk marketed by a foreign owned company so therefore Dairy Farmers is completely out of the question. I will go out of my way not to buy Dairy Farmers products so that is maybe one reason why their production has decreased.

(c) whether such a price reduction is anti-competitive. Well the milk that is discounted is just the basic milk and if in fact I was permitted to buy direct from the Farmers then I would do just that. As it is I only buy my fruit direct from the Orchards and never buy any fruit through a supermarket. I again think that for us to import fruit from overseas is the biggest joke going and I'd rather buy fresh fruit from the orchards and there are a lot of people out there doing just that.

The negative aspect of this trade is that of course the orchards don't pay tax on the cash they receive through sales direct to the public. So the Australian Government is now missing out on loads of Tax because we the Australian people refuse to buy fruit either imported or kept in refrigeration. The same will happen with Milk in the near future and the Farmers will get Cash in hand for their milk. It's the Australian Government trade policies that are driving the people to deal direct. At one orchard I had to wait 30 minutes to get served because there was that many people in front of me.

I ask you how long before the Australian People start dealing direct with the farmers for milk and I know in fact that it happens already but the instances are bound to increase. So who do you blame for people getting and using unpasteurised milk?

The only other comment I have to make is that its rather obvious that The Dairy Industry was better run in the Past before the Government introduced changes. I say let's go back to the old way.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Johnson