

The Hon. Senator Bill Heffernan
Chairman Fertilizer Enquiry
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T.

May 16, 2008

Dear Sir,

I am a farmer on the Macintyre River – the N.S.W. and Queensland border. We produce beef cattle and grow grain crops both dryland and irrigation, when water is available.

The record high Australian dollar during the last year gives importers who retail to the farming community cheaper import costs.

At the same time Australia's fertiliser company has lifted profits 200% and more than doubled the cost of its fertiliser to my farm.

Sir, they will provide you with a truck load of statements and reports and they will talk about fuel prices and food price rises and everything possible except the truth.

The fertiliser company has used its marketing monopoly to screw farmers to the wall.

Also I would like to advise you of other serious problems facing the farmer today.

My prime milk and two tooth grain and pasture fattened British bred steers are worth \$1.70 per kg live, this equates to \$5 per kg cut up and presented to the customer in the display cabinet. Our beef prices are the lowest in five years!

Have you noticed the price of meat in the big retail stores? These big retailers report record profits.

Interest rates are up 28% in the last year.

Round-up herbicide is up 157% in the last year.

An imported John Deere harvester tyre is \$4,500

Fuel prices are up 124% in last four years.

Sir, it isn't rocket science is it?

Yours sincerely

Roger Carrigan