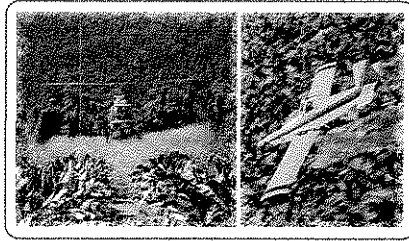


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LIDDLES AERIAL SPRAYING PTY LTD

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6th June, 2008

Senator the Honorable Bill Heffernon,
The Senate Select Committee Fertiliser Enquiry,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. ACT.

Dear Sir,

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the continuing rise in the cost of fertilisers and the effect it will have on farmers and consumers.

I run a Cattle Property and also an Aerial Spraying Business, so therefore the effect on my Business is twofold. Firstly the cost of fertilising the pasture to produce good quality beef is becoming prohibitive. We are not recouping these costs when we sell our bullocks as the market and the meatworks dictate what we can get for a bullock. The question is can we afford not to fertilise and therefore take twice as long to turn off a bullock, or do we cease food production and sell to the tree people for big dollars, thereby eliminating my property from ever producing food again.

In my Aerial Spraying Business I apply fertilisers, pesticides, fungicides etc to all manner of crops. My business employs 8 permanent staff fulltime and supports a great variety of businesses from Aircraft Maintenance through to Fuel Suppliers. My main concern is that if farmers cannot afford to fertilise then they will not produce enough crops, be it bananas, watermelons, pumpkins, lychees, taro or sugar cane, to remain sustainable and will therefore be forced to close down. Farmers in our area are the main employers and it would be catastrophic for this area should the agriculture industry not be viable. We are already hearing of the effects the tree people are having on the sugar industry with talk that our local Sugar Mill will soon not have enough cane to crush..

Some produce farmers are already talking of closing the gate as they cannot afford to absorb the ever increasing costs of fertilisers. Farmers cannot put up their prices to compensate for the increases. If enough farmers leave the food production chain or stop fertilising, because of escalating costs, this will have a dramatic impact on the amount of food produced for consumption and the workforce. The price of produce and beef available to the consumer will increase dramatically, workers will be unemployed and businesses will have to close down. It is imperative that the issue of rising fertilisers prices is urgently addressed to allow farming to remain sustainable.

Yours faithfully,

(Mr. Ian R. Liddle)