

Elizabeth M Lambert

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Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Agriculture and Related Industries
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it concerns,

Please note the following points with reference to your Inquiry into food production in Australia.

AFFORDABLE TO CONSUMERS

Make some hard decisions e.g.

Promote the consumption of local food types when they are in season and cheaply available.

Discourage the expensive transportation of food in refrigerated vehicles from one end of the country to the other

Permit the urban population to collect rain water to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Allow urban people to keep chooks.

Convert excess sporting fields into community vegetable allotments as on the railway siding in England during WWII and install lakes in public parks to collect water where feasible for use in watering the allotments.

Promote agriculture, conservation and land management as respected careers to encourage young people to train in these areas. Pay these same people a half decent wage.

Desist from wasting money training people in all those useless fields that are just service industries and which do not actually ever produce anything but papwerwork .

VIALE FOR PRODUCTION BY FARMERS

Permit the erection of residential homes on small land lots so people can do intensive horticulture in high rainfall area such as here in south Gippsland.

Discourage state planning ministers from implementing planning laws that assume the entire state is geographically the same, when half our state of Victoria is a desert

while other areas are productive land with enough rainfall (and predicted continuing into the future) to be the breadbasket of Melbourne.

Subsidise dairy farmers in Gippsland to install small wind turbines to run their dairies and to contribute this wind generated power to the state grid when they are not milking.

Exclude GM food types because of the damage they do to people and to the breeding cycles of the animals that consume them.

Legislate to ensure cattle at saleyards are pre-weighed before the sale as they always have been, until recently when buyers (from Coles, Safeway and other butchers) threatened to boycott sales at those saleyards that do not weigh the cattle post sale – so the buyers are not paying for the excrement remaining in the beasts !!!! Perhaps we should try telling the manager at the Coles supermarket fruit section that we will only pay for that part of their produce that we are able to actually consume (not stones, peel etc), and see how far we get

Pay primary producers enough money to make it worth their while to produce food for the rest of the population.

OF SUSTAINABLE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Stop wasting government money on the repair of the Murray Darling basin in the hope of returning it to a reliable source of irrigation water (and which, if you spent the entire Australian GNP on it forever, you would not be able to repair within the next 1,000 years) and leave the basin alone for environmental flows and drinking water instead.

Accept the fact that we are all going to have to accept a change in lifestyle, if we are going to survive into the future.

Promote the farming of native protein sources e.g. kangaroos, wallabies, possums, eels etc.

Desist from producing products that are huge water consumers e.g. rice !

Encourage production of grass fed cattle (not feedlot).

Thank you for your time,

regards

E M Lambert