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As a young person, I worked on a farm and for several years subsequently lived and worked in rural towns in NSW. After completing my Science degree, I moved to Sydney and therefore am in a position to experience and compare the differences between the two environments.

If one is to believe the dramatic effects of the alleged climate change, then food production and land use become critical aspects for any proposals. Since about 70% of Australia's agricultural products is sold on the domestic market, it is apparent that there has been an over emphasis on the export side with the anomalous free trade program seriously distorting the equation.

Farmers are never in a position to seriously influence the costs of their inputs and the price of their outputs is generally determined by the two main supermarket chains in Australia. The fact that these two chains are able to generate substantial profits is the result of their ability to force a low price from the supplying farmers. If they are less successful in obtaining items at a low cost, they simply import them from overseas at a lower cost. The importing of such items has undermined our domestic market to the detriment of our farming and rural communities. What makes it worse, is the fact that some items are being dumped here and others are so heavily subsidised that our producers cannot possibly compete. In this context also, our quarantine processes leave a lot to be desired.

Logic demands that protection be offered to farmers who are the only group who have no options to force a compromise. If they refuse to supply their product, then it is wasted and their labour and associated costs are in vain, they go further behind. Since they are the true environmentalists who nurture our land then they deserve special treatment.

Surveys have shown that greengrocer stores have been constantly able to offer comparable quality at a price lower than the supermarket chains so much so that the supermarkets have marked down items to below cost price to force out this competition.

The thrust towards Managed Investment Scheme is detrimental to farming. Productive land is being taken over by those with wealth who have allocated it to trees and niche market products such as olives and nuts which do not make a substantial contribution to our food needs. Tax concessions are then offered to those who are involved in reducing our essential agriculture.