

Senate Inquiry – The Impacts of supermarket price decisions on the dairy industry.

We are third generation dairy farmers with 95 years farming.

With the result of deregulation of the dairy industry the low prices meant that we had to cut back on a lot of spending on farm improvements. Also our income went backwards where the CPI increased. We had to rely on Centrelink payments to live.

If the next round of tenders for milk cuts the farm gate price we will be back on welfare again.

Our farm cannot sustain a drop in milk prices as it will not pay us to produce milk.

There are less than half of dairy farmers left in our area compared to 10- 15 years ago.

There is no money left over after all expenses are paid.

With the effort of producing milk and to keep up the high standards we need a reasonable sustainable price which we are not getting at the moment let alone with the price drop.

If the milk is not produced here locally and is trucked from Victoria or elsewhere it will create more greenhouse effects on the environment and also create a hazard on roads with all the extra heavy vehicles freighting milk unnecessary where it could be produced here.

The cost of bottled water is much more than the cost of bottled milk yet it does not cost as much to produce. Why is this so?

Is the ACCC investigating the supermarkets for predatory pricing?

We think it is time that politicians stop huffing and puffing hot air and crap and actually do something constructive to help Australian farmers.

(...)