

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Catherine Burley and I am a 13 year old girl in Year 8 at Dorrigo High School. I live on a dairy farm and have been very annoyed to hear about Woolworths and Coles offering \$1 per litre milk.

My 15 year old brother and I are very lucky to be able to participate in a numerous amount of sports and after school activities. I believe that if this scheme goes ahead, these opportunities may not continue any longer as we will not be able to afford it. A number of people in the community are now saying that they cannot afford to do these things, which is a terrible shame.

My father, who is a fourth generation dairy farmer, is also very upset about this as he works very hard for every single cent he gets. If this scheme is to go ahead, I'm sure that many dairy farmers, including us, will be forced out of the business. Australia will then be left with no choice but to import poor quality milk from overseas. I'm not sure that Woolworths and Coles realize how much extra work is put in just to maintain a dairy farm and how much this will affect communities as well as individual farms. Dairy communities rely heavily on dairy farmers for their overall survival. I heard the figure the other day that for every dollar spent by a dairy farmer, the multiplier effect in the community is \$3. This

is evidence that reduced income to dairy farmers could destroy country and rural areas.

I understand that Coles and Woolworths answer to the low price is that it is beneficial to the consumer. This may be true in the short term, but not if it leads to the dairy industry being ruined. Realistically, the consumer is happy to pay a reasonable price for good quality milk, as it is still cheaper than water. A fair and reasonable price for milk would keep all parties happy and ensure that their businesses were able to continue in the future.

This game of market share and price cutting campaign could have horrible consequences if this price is continued for any length of time. The large supermarkets need to realize that the futures of generations of dairy farmers and the communities in which they live lie in their hands.

Woolworths and Coles, you need to lift your game. You need to have a good think of the Australian people and how this will impact on them instead your business, and the profits you're making. I hope this letter is closely considered.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Burley