

Dear Senator,

As longtime dairyfarmers, who have worked at least 70 hours per week, year in year out, since 1959, to produce good quality milk for the consumer, we are writing to express our profound disgust at the latest challenge to dairying in Australia. Drought, floods, fire, poor prices, and especially the deregulation of the industry in June 2000, have all taken a tremendous toll on dairyfarmers. You have only to check up on the number who have decided they can no longer work those hours for very little reward to be able to see the effect deregulation had! Now Coles have launched a new attack, saying of course, it won't hurt dairyfarmers, but we did not come down in the last shower and it is obvious that the more market share they gain, the more they can tell the dairyfarmer, take it or leave it. And Sir, I can inform you that many dairyfarmers, including ourselves, will be "leaving it" We are concerned for the future of dairyfarming in Aust. It is a vocation not many are willing to undertake, however it can be a very special lifestyle, taking out the fact that you never get holidays, or much money for your work. When all of Australia's milk is imported, when you can't buy a bottle of fresh milk in the shops, when you have no control over the quality of the product as it comes from some other country, then it is too late to support dairyfarmers. They need you Senators to step in NOW and try to make some sense of this whole foolish business.

Please, for the future of our country, do something for dairyfarmers before it is too late.

Jack & Dorothy Haaksma