

Robert Chapman

Re:GroceryChoice

I'm on a pension and live in the vicinity of a country town (Bannockburn Victoria) 1 Pub, 1 Supermarket (Used To Be Foodworks), and 1 Service Station, about 3 years ago Woolworths (Safeway) moved into town and bought out the Supermarket and the Service Station, within 6 months the price of fruit and veggies had gone up 33%, the price of produce in the delicatessen had risen 33%, the price of meat went up 15%, shelf prices stayed about the same in that first 6 month period but have since risen dramatically, even the price of beer went up, I buy a slab of Tooheys Gold (mid strength) a fortnight, this used to cost \$27 (down to \$23 on special), it's now \$37 under the Woolworths regime, that's another 33% in 3 years, petrol's also a couple of cents dearer than in the nearest major town (Geelong) where as it used to be the same.

I have to add this, you'd think being a pensioner I'd appreciate the 4 cents a litre we are given on the shopper docket, quite the opposite in fact! I get 60 litres of petrol a fortnight which equates to \$2.40 Whoopie!!!!!!!

Before Safeway moved into town I could buy ham in the deli at \$8 a kg, it's now at a minimum of \$14 on special, at that price difference it only takes these benevolent corporate thieves half a kg of ham to get back the \$2.40 they have given me on my docket, I believe this 4 cents a litre is the biggest con job going around, in fact I find it nearly incomprehensible the Government allows this to happen, it gives the impression they are complicit in this fraud, the only ones that can benefit from shopper docket are the ones who make the rules, Woolworths and Coles, they take it off you in their stores then give "some" of it back at the service stations, also remember not everyone that shops buys petrol, so the effect on those that don't buy petrol? The result is outright theft.

Shopper docket has nothing to do with customer loyalty; the only purpose they were designed was to eliminate competition from the independent service station owners.

#### Summary

In my opinion an inquiry isn't needed into what's going on, Blind Freddie can see that.

What we really need is an inquiry into why we need an inquiry into something that is so bloody obvious.

Also the demise of GroceryChoice, if the website had become available, I'd have been able to tell how much more the Woolworths monopoly in my town is charging for basics than people living in more populated areas where there was a Woolworths competitor (price fixer, Aldi excluded) nearby. But now I'll never know!

Yours Sincerely Robert Chapman.