

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a beef farmer at Holbrook in Southern NSW and I am very concerned with the direction that is occurring in Australia with the ownership of abattoirs and export beef companies. This has been occurring now for many years but the power that JB Swift and Cargill-Teys now have is becoming increasingly plain to see with the widening gap between what we as producers receive for our livestock and the percentage of profit made in the processing chain to what consumers are now charged for our meat.

We as producers are told it's because the high numbers of stock being processed is dampening prices. Well, all this supposed 'extra meat' seems to have been shipped and sold into export markets at record prices meaning that we as producers are being taken for suckers.

As primary producers we are told to produce more in order to feed the world and booming Asian markets. Seems to me we would be better off with about 40 million sheep and 16 million cattle or a bit more competition for our livestock sales. As the ACCC and successive government's rubberstamping takeovers is obviously not in our best interests, only the overseas companies.

The main points I'd like to see the Senate Inquiry address are at the point of sale. In particular:

1. The events surrounding the move from presale weighing to post sale weighing. This has been happening slowly for years now with private operators taking over once council or agent owned saleyards. Who is Palisade? How many saleyards in Australia do they control? Is JBS or Cargil-Teys a shareholder in Palisade?
2. Commission buyers and agents. How can a commission buyer be allowed to buy for multiple clients? Competition is non-existent with this practice. Agents buying cattle for themselves at sales, isn't this a huge conflict of interest? How about a register of commission buyers and agents to only be able to buy cattle for themselves when not at work selling our cattle.
3. Livestock MSA Qualifications at Barnawartha NVLX. NVLX has a flat curfew time of 9pm regardless of the agent draw. Example, I yarded my stock at 10am one

Monday, they were off water for 5 to 6 hrs before transport to Barnawartha. Truck left Holbrook between 3-4pm to arrive at Barnawartha at approximately 5:30pm. The cattle were then sold at approximately 9am Tuesday, then moved and weighed at 3pm and travelled out to abattoir at 5pm, arriving Tuesday night sometime. I fail to see how these yards could be MSA approved as with all this extra time off feed how is the animal welfare of my stock being met?

4. Finally, the state and market power of JBS, Cargil-Teys and Nippon Meat. Direct selling is not the answer to producers falling profit because these multinational processors are able to set the conditions of sale to suit themselves.

Please hopefully this enquiry will expose and ultimately be able to correct some of these imbalances.

Yours sincerely,

Murray and Debbie Jones