

Select Committee on Supermarket Prices
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: supermarketprices.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee

In 2023 my wife and I represented a charity which collected and recycled fresh groceries from Coles. It was our job on a Saturday morning to take a truck to two local Sydney Coles stores and collect discarded produce suitable for the charity to use as ingredients for prepared meals, to make into sandwiches, or to hand out to those people in need.

The truck, with enclosed and refrigerated storage, was approximately 7.5cu m. Collectors did pick ups from Coles and Woolworths in the local area on Saturday and Sunday resulting in the truck generally being full by Sunday evening.

In September/October 2023 I observed a significant reduction in the volume of our collections from Coles. I was informed by Coles staff that a new ordering procedure had been introduced which ensured that the level of wastage was reduced. I would estimate that this reduction is in the order of 75%. The impact was generally with fresh vegetables and fruit, but bread also was reduced and to a lesser extent with meat.

Such a reduction in wastage would have an immediate impact on Coles profit and therefore their ability to reduce fresh grocery prices. Multiply the impact by the 2,500 Coles stores across Australia and the bottom line impact would be enormous.

Yours faithfully

Brian Dunphy