

Senate Inquiry Submission

Summary of our Family Situation

My Family is a 3rd Generation Dairy family located at Rollands Plains which at this point in time we are milking just under 200 cows.

Father – 73 years old

Son – 21 years old

Daughter – 22 years old

Daughter – 25 years old

Daughter – 27 years old

Our Father is not selling the farm as he has handed the reins to my brother to run. spent years and lots of money at Tocal college to gain skills ready for the takeover, which he now regrets due to the situation of the Dairy Industry.

We are unable to afford employees to help so Dad 73 & 78 (Uncle) still work on the farm to help . There is 6 other family members that work after their town jobs. We are all doing it for pride to keep the Farm in the Family. If things keep going bad than there will be no future and we will be forced to sell due to debt.

The Dairy Industry needs a total overview by the Government in a lot of aspects, however at this point in time it is the Milk Pricing issue as Norco will reduce cents per litre for the farmers as the flow on affect from Coles and Woolworths reducing their prices. Please consider all options you have to assist our Family and fellow farmers.

In the 100 plus years our grandfathers Family has lived at Rollands Plains we have seen most dairy farms go. In 1979 there was over 90 and today March 2011 there is only 4.

The normal hours spent working on the farm are 3am to 9pm. We have also started Silage contracting to boost the income hoping that we do not need to sell. We can understand why there is so many farms been sold because the farmers Children or Grand children to not see a future in Milking, (which is correct). At the moment we are taking the farm on from our father as we are so passionate about the farm and we refuse to sell it. Which for our futures is not the best decision unfortunately. We are already in huge debt trying to make the farm more modern and to keep the farm up to date with Current Legislation and laws.

Since Deregulation we have had increased expenses and broken milk contracts whenever

it suited the factories. The Milk works at the moment will kill the Norco brand in our area the direct impact will be lack of sales of Norco Milk. Norco supplies to a lot of the small corner stores and people would rather drive directly into town and buy the milk from Coles or Woolworths then stopping at the corner store, simply because it is cheaper.

We have gone through all our records and have made some small comparatives to expenses that we occur, please keep in mind whilst these expenses have increased the cents per litre we get paid has decreased or stayed similar over these years. The Factories only pay full price between Feb & July. In 2000 the family was debt free.

Diesel- 2000yr 91 cents & 2011yr \$1.32

Grain- 2000yr 1 tone was \$160.00 & 2011yr \$260

Electricity- 2000yr \$840 to \$1005 & 2011yr \$6000.00 plus

Fertiliser- 2000yr \$400 – & 2011 \$970

Rates – 2000yr \$3237.20 & 2011yr \$5848

I have had little time to submit a submission so hopefully this small summary will assist the Dairy Farmers.

Thank you