## Country of Origin Food Labelling Submission 1

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY – INQUIRY INTO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN FOOD LABELLING

As part of your inquiry, I invite the Committee to consider related Trade Mark laws impinging on labelling of country of origin of food.

Members of the Committee, and indeed many members of the public, would know that the Goulburn Valley is one of Australia's prominent agricultural areas in Victoria. The sight of the attached label on a bottle of juice in a shop or supermarket fridge would make one immediately think one was purchasing an Australian product, and in doing so, supporting Australian farmers and protecting local jobs. Not entirely true!

A closer inspection of the small print on the back of the label shows that "Goulburn Valley" is a registered trademark of the Coca Cola Company, which is a USA based company, and that the product is made from "imported ingredients". The nearest that anything to do with the product gets to the Goulburn Valley in Victoria is the processing/packaging plant in Northmead NSW!!

Now I imagine these labelling arrangements are within Australia's trade mark laws, but one could readily think they might be deceptive – a deliberate attempt to link a food product made from imported ingredients with a well- known Australian food producing area, in order to have the unsuspecting public, moving quickly through food outlets, purchase the product as though it were from Australian farms.

Referred for your consideration and any action you think appropriate.

Bill Bowron

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