

~ HILLSBOROUGH LIMOUSINS ~

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15th January 1999

The Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
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Dear Commission members,

Federal member for Wide Bay, Warren Truss, has invited us to inform you of our feelings towards the National Competition Policy and its effects in rural areas.

The NCP flies in the face of everything Australians believe in. The catch-cry of NCP is "free trade". No one objects to "free trade" as long as it is balanced by "fair trade" but this is seldom the case now.

The monopoly of big businesses such as Supermarket chains must be the most obvious example of "unfair trade".

In sports, we scrupulously pursue fairness. We don't make Bantam weights fight Heavy weights. Sportsmen and women resorting to steroids to enhance performance are castigated because of unfair advantage.

In business, we allow Heavy weights free rein and we bow to their greed. We call it "Free Trade". We tell Bantam weights to "get big or get out". Because they physically can't compete, we effectively deny them their constitutional right to provide for themselves and their families without resorting to Government handouts.

If NCP continues, big business will monopolise every market and ultimately raise prices to any heights they wish. There'll be no competition as small businesses close and country towns will die. If the small businesses in Kingaroy were to close, there would only be Woolworths, Kentucky Fried Chicken, MacDonaldis and perhaps a Mitre 10 left. These will not absorb the newly unemployed, so those people would leave town in search of work.

Our children are moving to the cities now and we wonder if our country

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towns have a future in the next millennium. We also wonder what the future will be if big business is all we have.

NCP is disastrous for small business and a godsend for multinationals and big business. As they pay little or no tax, it will ultimately spell disaster for Australia.

Yours faithfully

Graeme & Val Wicks

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