

TYPED COPY OF HAND WRITTEN LETTER

“Bellevue”
Dergholm 3312

1-11-98

Productivity Commission
P.O. Box 80
Belconnen A.C.T. 2616

Dear Sir/Madam

In rural Australia we suffer from high fuel prices, I am not sure whether it is due to lack of competition or because the fuel companies dictate price.

Wool sales at auction seem to suffer from collusive buying by the wool buyers, when one buyer can buy for several firms this takes the competition out of the market place. Collusive buying also happens at fat stock markets. While it is very hard to prove this happens it is very disappointing to see a pattern where buyers take it in turn to buy your product which you have gone to considerable trouble and expense to produce.

Goods which are produced in rural Australia and then sold in the capital cities at prices lower than what they can be bought for in the country is very unfair to country people. Because the market is very small in rural Australia it does not seem fair that city people can buy the same goods cheaper than their country counterparts. Milk and vegetables would be a good example.

The railway system needs to be extended to cater for standard gauge rolling stock to deliver grain to the Port of Portland in Victoria. This deep sea port can handle large vessels at a lower cost than most of the large ports around Australia and yet it is very much under utilized. Grain from a large area of south eastern Australia could use this port at lower costs.

With a policy of decentralisation more industry could be located in rural Australia reversing the population drift to the cities and giving many young people the opportunity to get employment in the country.

In Australia we have many natural resources which we can utilise and produce quality products at very competitive prices if we had a realistic wages system.

Yours faithfully

M.J. Davis