

16th April, 1982.

M/s. Anne Herla,
Secretary,
Consumer Affairs Council,
500 Bourke Street,
MELBOURNE. 3000

Dear Madam,

In reply to your letter of 29th March, 1982, on behalf of our Association I would like to submit the following comments re the two reports produced by the Committee of Inquiry into Egg Marketing in Victoria.

We believe that the trouble started when Mr. Ian Smith (the then Minister for Agriculture) was given the power to appoint a 3 man Committee to make these 2 reports. It took him 4 months to find 3 men who would give him the reports he wanted. Both reports were biased and were the opinion of Mr. McArthur and not a true record of the evidence put before the Committee.

If all the recommendations in both reports ~~were~~ implemented it would completely wreck the whole Australian Egg Industry.

We, as the Commercial Egg Producers' Association of Victoria support the retention of quotas in all States of Australia and the continuation of an Orderly Marketing System. We realize only too well the effect it would have if one State failed to continue the quota system. The quota system since its inception 7 years ago has proved that it is the most effective way of keeping our industry stable.

Pulping eggs is a thing of the past. The success of quotas in Victoria this year is evident by the fact that surplus production will be below 2%. The quota system also ensures the stability of the industry because it protects the family farmer compared to the Victorian Chicken meat industry which is dominated by Multi nationals based in New South Wales.

The most efficient way of marketing eggs is through a Marketing Board, the Board looks after the interests of all size farms, but take away the Board and chaos will prevail. We need the Egg Board to maintain a high standard of quality to which the consumer so rightly demands.

The statement that eggs were too dear is a wild statement and has never been proved. Victoria is the only State that markets a 65 gram egg and this appears to make our eggs more expensive, but if a comparison is made between the 50 gram egg prices it will be found that Victoria is on a par with other States. The Victorian Liberal Party did not believe in cost of production so there have been no accurate figures kept in this State.

I hope these few comments further endorses our support of the continuation of the quota system in Victoria and the retention of the Victorian Egg Marketing Board in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

K. Fitzgibbon,
SECRETARY