

Telephone 054-395316

STRATHFIELDSAYE  
Vic. 3551.

31st. March, 1983.

Mr. Eric Kent, M.P.  
Minister of Agriculture,  
Box 4041, G.P.O.,  
MELBOURNE  
Vic. 3001.

Dear Mr. Kent:

I am writing re the following matters:

1. To protest about the Victorian Egg Marketing Board's proposed introduction of brown eggs onto the market in August 1984.

The V.E.B. met with all Producer Organisations in February this year at which all organisations were opposed to the introduction of brown eggs, two weeks later the Board sends out plans to introduce same.

Please find enclosed for your information copy of letter from V.E.B. re guidelines for Brown Eggs.

There are enough variation in grades on the market now and with an added one will only cause more confusion. The premium on this grade would, to the public, make eggs look more expensive and could act against us.

2. Last September we wrote to you asking that enough grain be held in Central Victoria for pig and poultry producers until December '83. Now in March we find we are carting wheat back from Geelong which is up in excess of \$25.00 per tonne, we have lost our freight rebate and incurred cartage back from Dunolly, this makes wheat which is an important part of our feed very expensive (197.50 per tonne and prepared feeds \$245.00).

3. We would also like to suggest that now the drought appears to be broken that meatmeal stocks should be monitored in regard to export and home supply, and sufficient stocks to be maintained for home use. The availability of meatmeal is fairly tight and has just risen \$30.00 to \$364.50 per tonne.

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4. We would like you to investigate the structure of the V.E.B.; we believe for the throughput of eggs at Keysborough that it is top heavy in administration.

They are looking after less producers now than years ago and have the aid of computers rather than it all being manual work. Over staffing adds to Producers costs.

Yours sincerely,

K. Kitzgibbon  
SECRETARY.

ENC/1.

*copy sent to:-*

*Mr. David Kennedy M.L.A.*