

EGG PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION,  
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NOVEMBER 25TH 1987

Hon. Evan Walker M.L.C.,  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs,  
166 Wellington Parade,  
EAST MELBOURNE. 3002.

Dear Mr. Walker,

RE PUBLIC BODIES REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT.

Further to our letter of 5th, for which, as yet, we have received no acknowledgment, our Association has recently met and considered in detail the above Report. We wish to make to you the following comments.

The Report is generally in accordance with the views of our members. The exceptions to this are as below.

LICENSING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

*just  
out.*  
1. Recommendation 1 - Our Members agree with the 7 year phase out, except that this should be subject to the Minister obtaining Agriculture Council agreement for a National phase out. We believe that conditions for production should be the same for all Australian producers.

*25 not 100*  
2. Recommendation 8 - the exemption level should be 100 instead of 500 hens to discourage the proliferation of backyard farms in country areas.

*keep at  
85,000*  
3. Recommendation 10 - the farm size limit should be raised to 100,000 hens, to be in line with N.S.W. If there is a change upwards in any other State, the parity should be maintained to preserve the competitiveness of Victorian producers.

4. Recommendation 24 - The objectives for the Board should be decided after consultation with the industry and with the agreement of the industry.

EGG BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation 12 - fees charged by Weights and Measures should be on the same basis as for similar food products.

2. Recommendation 13 - fees paid for hygiene control should be on the same basis as for other food products.

Having considered in detail the Report, we wish to emphasise that we support the objective and positive recommendations of the Public Bodies Review Committee, with the above exceptions.

However, The Egg Producers Association is particularly concerned at the administrative inefficiency, and the dishonesty and deception of the Victorian Egg Marketing Board to Parliament, producers and consumers. Some examples of these are as follows:

1. The continuing losses incurred on egg products - out of 6.23 million dozen processed, only 356,000 doz were sold at a profit.
2. The \$18 million cost of running the Board when only \$12 million was disclosed.
3. For the last financial year sales increased by only 100,000 dozen with marketing costs of \$2.3 million.
4. The addition of \$500,000 to the cost of advertising.
5. The finding that the real objective of the proposed Good Food Company is to bypass the P.B.R.C. Recommendations.
6. The 6% quota discrepancy within the transfer system. That is, 6% or 150,000 hens could not be accounted for.

We believe that further inquiry is needed into these matters and that for these and other reasons the current Board and senior management should be replaced. They are neither capable, nor willing to implement the Report and do not work in the interests of producers in this commercial environment.

We wish to remind you that we have had no representation on the Board for several years inspite of annual nominations and requests.

Our submission to the P.B.R.C. has been vindicated and accepted in almost its entirety, and we feel this justifies our stance in both the past and the present.

We fully support the thrust of the Report and look forward to cooperating with you in implementating its Recommendations.

Yours faithfully  
EGG PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Michael Moore  
Secretary.