

sent
Robins

TELEPHONE 054395316

POSTAL ADDRESS
Strathfieldsaye Road,
STRATHFIELDSAYE, 3551

11th February, 1988.

Mrs. Jean Vipadi,
Secretary,
Egg Farmers of Victoria,
P.O. Box 141,
NOBLE PARK, 3174

Dear Jean,

I write on behalf of the members of the Commercial Egg Producers' Association of Victoria requesting a rise in the price of eggs immediately and not wait until the proposed changes in Grade sizes are introduced in April.

We are dissatisfied with present pricing of eggs, the difference of 99 cents in the price between 70 gram and 49 gram eggs is quite ridiculous. We suggest that the top price of \$1.99 remain but the next 3 grades be lifted to a reasonable price. To encourage sales of small eggs we should adjust the price of larger eggs, and in so doing make the smaller grades more attractive to the consumer.

The Board appears to be keeping the lower grades down to cover the loss of products produced by the Good Food Co. We need to raise the price of the products to the price of the eggs. If the Company cannot survive with that situation, we are all wasting our time. We strongly oppose the Good Food Company selling wholemeal eggs in competition to our own, because we can see with the restrictions and lack of interest by Board Officers in this State that the supply will come from N.S.W.

I DIRECT THIS LETTER TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS:-

You as Board Members have been chosen to act on behalf of egg producers in this State, your performance over the last few years has been disappointing, some of you are producers and should understand the plight of present day producers. You have to show more courage and stand up to the Government, which is determined to keep farmers of all kinds down on low returns.

You will probably throw back the usual answers; what about N.S.W., the Public Bodies Review Committee or Prof. Fels:-

(1) N.S.W. having read the profitability of egg production in N.S.W. in 1986-87 prepared by the Department of Agriculture Officers, I see that they are in the same situation as us.

(2) PUBLIC BODIES REVIEW COMM. has been going on for that long now and producers just can't sit around and wait on their decision, before we get a reasonable return for our eggs, while these people receive bonuses for wasting time.

(3) PROF. FELS and his price investigation is also another saga, there are many points where he has made mistakes, (these have been brought to his attention) that if he is fair dinkum with his investigation, he will have to recommend a severe rise; if not this Government has achieved what it set out to do - wreck this industry.

After discussions with producers in this area I find the average net return per dozen varies from 85-97 cents per dozen. Allowing for cost of production it would seem producers are in a very tight situation.

With feed prices having risen from \$30-\$40 per tonne in the last six months, plus other costs escalating alarmingly producers are in a desperate need of a realistic price for their produce.

Hoping you will give this letter your serious consideration and I am looking forward to your early reply,

Yours sincerely,

K. Fitzgibbon,
SECRETARY