

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper – Submission IP68

Cindy Fitzgerald

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We run a beef enterprise and have done for the last 35 years. The main problem for us is high costs as we do have to compete on a world market and its not a level playing field more like a vertical cliff as all our competitors have government subsidies. We are not getting enough money for our cattle in normal times let alone government interference with the normal market aka the live trade closure which has been a disaster as its flow on effects from north to south were inevitable and the drought on top of that has given us a double whammy so to speak. We are still dealing with this depressed market selling cattle for low prices but we have to sell and take the pain we are price takers we are also at the mercy of the weather which is looking extremely bad. We have had no rain to grow feed for our cattle since last June which is a long long time. Wind has blown for about 5 months with huge evaporation the country here looks terrible. Our neighbours normally grow winter and summer crops as its perceived as a safe area winter wheat crop not too good and no summer crop for the last 2 years. We still have water via our bores surface water in the district dams dried up. We need to get costs down Fuel, Machinery, Labour, Council Rates, MLA and NLIS needs to be shut down and go back to tail tags its been and expensive disaster, lower Aussie dollar, Insurance is huge as well, Bring in this pit slaughter as suggested by Heffernan to take tail end cattle out of the system, freight subsidies for feed and transporting stock, and why are we getting paid lowest prices for the cattle? Because meat companies can pay what they like for the cattle price is still the same in the supermarkets it has'nt gone down. We need to be able to make a return from our farms why keep farming certainly no young people are coming into the industry we are all getting older and there is no young people coming along they have seen their parents battling along for years and ours are all out working but not in the farming sector. Farmers will soon be extinct its coming and its been coming for a very long time and surprisngly the country does need food and water we can't import it as well as everything else. thankyou for giving us this chance to make our voice heard.