

Submission to the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper.

By Linden Baker.

There is a great disparity in food and fibre pricing, this has to change.

The agricultural sector of this country must be able to earn a decent living or fair wage for their efforts and costs of production.

This can be achieved easily by putting in place legislation, (we need Government assistance to do this) to set a MINIMUM price for our food and fibre.

A slight take off the retailers would give farmers a decent price for their goods...

I.E. A one kilogram loaf of bread cost \$4, the farmer gets \$250 per tonne for milling wheat, that's 25 cents per kilogram, if the costs of production were calculated in, the actual costs per kilogram of wheat would be approximately 50 cents a kilogram!

For an extra 25 cents a kilogram obtained by proving that the cost of production requires that amount, the farmer would receive a fair price for his or her efforts!

Farmers MUST receive 100% PARITY for their food and fibre, that is a fair wage, comparing the selling price of their commodities compared to the input costs to produce it!

A free market economy does not work, markets go wild and the price taking farmer suffers, costs escalate and the farmer gets left behind, while other sectors of the economy survive by maintaining parity.

To have food security we must have viable farmers.