

26th February 2012

Letter to Editor

RE: Mr Warren Truss's Letter to Editor regarding Deregulation of Dairy Industry (25-2-12)

Dear Editor,

Mr Truss is a true politician in putting a spin on the truth with his claim that the former federal LNP government didn't deregulate the dairy industry. He blames the Beattie state ALP government.

This is an issue I am certainly qualified to speak on. I was in Queensland Parliament on the day trying to convince Premier Beattie to hold off and research a plan developed by Professor Michael Copar of Australian National University.

Beattie's dilemma was very real: if he didn't legislate to deregulate on that day, the federal LNP government threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars of national competition policy payments. Talk about blackmail?

For Mr Truss to hark on about a \$2 billion dollar adjustment package... well the truth is that the consumer was taxed for 11 years to fund this.

Interestingly, the day after deregulation, the consumer didn't receive cheaper milk and the price farmers received plummeted overnight. \$1000 million dollars went from our farmers to the supermarkets.

As they say the rest is history and the dairy and supporting industries in the Gympie region have been decimated with more farmers to leave in the upcoming weeks. Currently the future for Dairying in our region is bleak from lack of leadership.

Mr Truss's LNP recently had the chance to do something about the situation after several Senate inquiries into the disgraceful conduct over milk pricing by Coles Supermarkets. What did they do? NOTHING!

Indeed, the LNP sided with ALP and said all is well; perhaps a few more talk-fests and summits will fix it. Mr Truss, you will go down in history as the man on watch who allowed our dairy industry to be destroyed while leading a party parading for small business and agriculture.

Shane Paulger

Katter's Australian Party Candidate for Gympie

