

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia



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Isherwood:

Declare parity prices for farmers and knock Coles and Woolies out



Craig Isherwood

“Coles and Woolies predatory price fight to establish so called ‘market share’, will kill Australians and continue to kill our food producers,” declared CEC leader Craig Isherwood today.

“The actions of Coles and Woolies amount to an attack against the national food security of our nation, so our government has a choice: either nationalise these two monopolistic grocery chains, and break them up, or introduce parity pricing for our food producers with import bans on food supplies that can be sourced locally, now! I would do both, immediately.”

Citing the example of Britain, Mr Isherwood said, “British supermarkets in recent years have driven thousands of dairy farmers out of business, and milk imports from the Netherlands and Ireland have skyrocketed. In Western Australia, after years of deregulation and smashing the local dairy industry they are now receiving container loads of powdered milk from China! In the last year alone, 70,000 of our dairy cows have been exported to China. Whilst China needs help with its internal food-production, this is nuts.

“It is a scandal that Coles has imported British executives to orchestrate the destruction of our agricultural producers. Their visas should be evoked forthwith and they should be deported as a menace to Australia’s national interest.”

“It is clear,” he continued “that the intention of Coles and Woolies’ current price war is to source the cheapest product from anywhere in the world, to maximise shareholder profits, and in so doing, join the movement to promote genocidal policies to reduce the world’s population. Make no mistake, once the local production of wheat, beef, milk products, eggs, and other food staples have been completely destroyed, then these predatory supermarket chains will raise prices to suit themselves. They don’t give a hell about the welfare of ordinary Australians—and all Australians, both consumers and producers, will suffer. They already are with record numbers of farmers committing suicide!”

Mr Isherwood called for immediate action: “The government must act in the interest of the general welfare of the Australian people, and deal with the food cartel in the same way they should deal with that other bankrupt predatory cartel—the Australian banking system: control, regulate, and if they do not behave—nationalise them in the interests of all Australians! But first, and most urgently, let’s protect our food producers now and declare parity pricing immediately.”

He called on the other political figures already decrying this insanity—Bob Katter, John Cobb, and Barnaby Joyce: “Do something effective; use the power of your offices to call to bring in parity pricing now to protect our food producers from the predators. We won’t get a second chance”, he concluded.

To compare the CEC’s record to that of the growing chorus of leaders, including PM Julia Gillard, who claim that nobody could have seen this crisis coming.

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Macquarie Bank, the ACCC, and the British plot to ruin dairy farmers

Contrary to the repeated “findings” of Graeme Samuel and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Coles and Woolworths—the most dominant retail duopoly in the world—are in collusion... with the ACCC!

The current milk price war is not a war between Coles and Woolworths; it is a war by Coles, Woolworths and the ACCC against Australia’s dairy farmers, which is *intended* to destroy Australia’s dairy industry.

It is part of a broader plot to annihilate all of the essential industries which provide Australia’s food security and the ability to meet the needs of its population.

What’s more, every level of this plot is being run out of London.

Australia’s federal and state governments adopted National Competition Policy in 1992, at the direction of Macquarie Bank: Macquarie executive Fred Hilmer wrote the Hilmer Report which spelt out the principles by which so-called “competition” would be the excuse to root out and destroy every form of regulation and protection that supported small business and local production in key industries, and expose those small businesses and industries to being taken over or outright flattened by large national and multinational corporations. Another Macquarie executive, Graeme Samuel, directed the implementation of the new regime, first as head of the National Competition Council, and later as head of the ACCC. Samuel is notorious for once endorsing insider trading, on the grounds it made “markets” more efficient.

Macquarie Bank is a British bank! It was founded as Hill Samuel Australia Ltd. in 1969, a subsidiary of that lynchpin of British imperialism, London’s Hill Samuel Bank, whose chairman Sir Kenneth Keith ran British intelligence following World War II. It has led the pack of City of London banks, including N.M. Rothschild and Sons and the Royal Bank of Scotland, which attack and loot sovereign nation states by variously conning, coercing and/or corrupting governments to deregulate their economies, and implement scams such as “privatization”. Hill Samuel’s role in looting Australia’s economy goes back as far as directing the floating of the Australian dollar in 1983, the first big Hawke/Keating “reform”.

The British Empire today is the globalised monetarist system, which gives the private financial interests of the City of London and Wall Street who control

“money” the power to dictate to nations; free trade and deregulation have removed the authority of national governments to protect the welfare of their citizens, putting those citizens at the mercy of what the patriots of “old Labor” denounced as the “Money Power”.

The people of England are as much the victims of the British Empire system as the citizens of every other country. In the case of the dairy industry, for example, the tools that are being used to destroy Australia’s dairy industry have already destroyed the British dairy industry, making U.K. citizens reliant on imports from Ireland and Holland. U.K. milk imports surged 60 per cent from 84 million litres in 2006 to 134 million in 2008, whilst heavy price cutting by supermarkets drove 10 per cent of dairy farmers out of business in that time. “Britain is now importing record amounts of milk because our farmers are getting such a poor return for their efforts,” Liberal Democrat MP Tim Farron told the U.K.’s *Western Morning News* on Nov. 4, 2009. “This is a stupidly shortsighted attitude that will continue to undermine the UK dairy industry.” Supermarkets would continue to import millions of litres of milk, he said, “without a second thought of the damage to our dairy industry because they know that will be able to cut their prices without cutting their profits”. And now in Australia, a British gang of retail experts, veterans of the war against U.K. dairy farmers brought in by Wesfarmers to manage Coles, have launched the Coles/Woolworths price war against Australia’s dairy farmers: Coles CEO Ian McLeod; Archie Norman, a British adviser to Wesfarmers on running Coles, who recruited McLeod and half a dozen key staff from Britain for the operation; and Coles’s managing director John Durkan, who is directly managing the price war.

In this current milk price war, and consistently for many years, the Hill Samuel/Macquarie-groomed ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel has brazenly excused the duopolistic power of Coles and Woolworths, whilst aggressively pursuing even small businesses for so-called “anti-competitive” behaviour. When the ABC’s *Four Corners* confronted Samuel with evidence of Woolworths bullying suppliers on Sep. 1, 2008, he dismissed it as “tough dealing”. Under Samuel, the ACCC’s position *vis a vis* the Coles/Woolies duopoly amounts to much more than turning a blind eye—it is collusion, in the campaign to destroy Australian producers.