

To allow each farm to make a decent living, supermarkets need to be strictly controlled. and not allowed to dictate to farmers. Quality of product should be the criteria for product selection, not how far the supermarket can screw the farmer forcing him out of production if he doesn't accept their price. Supermarkets have become the Hitler's of the food and ag. Industry and they need to be controlled.\_

Around. all of this are our natural resources - including our whole country, our soil., our plants, trees, flora and fauna, (not just our national parks) which need to be managed by responsible people or our source of food production will be gone in a very short time. Salinity from loss of trees, lack of soil cover, over irrigation and *bad* farming techniques needs to be reversed. Leaching of nutrients into out waterways needs to be controlled. Water use needs to be limited with better water retention of soils the focus of all farms. Loss of topsoil needs to become topsoil gain. If we do not address and correct these practices the will be no soil left for our grandchildren to grow food in. We will have made them totally dependent on imports from countries that were wiser that we were and altered their farming techniques before it was too late. We run the risk of leaving a legacy of supplier dominance.

Under the heading of "Changing the nature of farming" I believe the reference group is heading in the wrong direction altogether. "Continuous productivity improvement" has not happened from farms *getting bigger. The dairy industry is living proof of that. The larger the farm, the bigger the inputs, the more expense, the less time the farmer has to really look at his stock/crops, the more disease problems occur, the harder he works, the lower the profit margin, the more .he looks for the quick fix approach and the whole farm suffers\_*

We need to encourage people back to farming with smaller properties which they can afford and manage, making them viable through educated, sustainable, soil building techniques such as organics and biodynamics.

Bigger is not better - just more stressful for everything and everyone involved..

In this fast paced world of instant gratification we need to take a. step back to make a lcap forward\_ Smaller, more affordable farms lead to increased rural populations, which lead to increased. business opportunities, which lead to increased incentives for country services leading to increased positive lifestyles and attitudes.

*The support systems currently in place are only treating the symptoms not the cause of our food and ag industry problems. The causes are big businesses with vested interests, rising costs of labour, supermarkets with too much power, excessive social security handouts, bad land management both historically and present day, and lack of positive government support on the ground to build the industry. A major shift is needed to build an agriculture and food sector which is seen as the industry paramount to maintaining the health of our nation.*

Overall, we need to think logically about our children's future. Please think for the long-term of our country and not just the very short term monetary gains. We CAN provide aa good life for our offspring if we think and act now and. not leave them, a toxic legacy of our stupidity. Before dumping genetically modified. crops and mega litres of poison into their food supply, think whether you would prefer them to live healthy, happy liver or lives dominated by pain and disease.

Our grandchildren need to be able to choose the variety of fruit, vegetables and meat they eat and. *know they are not consuming chemical time bombs. The population needs to understand that good food comes from naturally grown plants and animals not from stressed, farce-fed, feedlot produce shipped thousands of miles to supermarkets. Our farmers need. to be taught that monocrops in hundred acre paddocks without a tree for miles is ruining their land, their livelihood and their future.*

*If we do not look after our food and agriculture sector we will not have life. At present we are just hanging onto a 'clean, green' image but it is fast disappearing due to money hungry monopolies wanting to control what we grow and how we grow our produce. Once again their only interest is in the short term monetary gains with no thought for the future health of this nation.*

PLEASE THINK FOR THE LONG TERM HEALTH OF ALL AUSTRALIANS.