

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was the first speaker at Dalwalinu. My reason for being there was probably different to many other farmers. My first concern is the 'process' that the Government has chosen to gauge farmers view points.

This process is undemocratic - a few speakers at the meeting can have their say, but this is not to say that their opinions are indicative of all those present. The only fair way to gauge what the majority of farmers want, is to have a National Farmers Vote - presumeably the first issue to be addressed - 'for or against' the single desk.(and keep the power of veto intact, if single desk stays.)

Yesterday the Chair would not concede to allow a vote at the Dalwalinu meeting, even when asked. I believe the reason the Chair would not concede to allow a vote, was the HUGE number of people in favour of the single desk. The farmers would have been more than happy to vote!

As it was I believe many felt this meeting was contrived and for the politicians benefit and not ours. People did not want Wilson Tuckey to speak as we had all heard his view point on the radio. (It was a farmers meeting for farmers to air their opinions to the Government.) Mr Wilson Tuckey is supposed to represent the views of the people in his electorate - I believe he does not!

We are facing the biggest drought in Australian history, so what do the politicians think they are doing? We need the politicians support and they need to hear what the majority of farmers want.

The Chair was supposed to be impartial but kept prodding people - trying to find out if AWB L and AWB i should be split. Again the most important issue is whether we keep the single desk and then build from here.

Senator Adams, was one of the last speakers and informed us we were welcome to pick up a Draft of the Wheat Marketing Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 from the foyer on the way out - says it all. The outcome of this meeting was a foregone conclusion - the Government in its wisdom says the WEB will grant licences to whoever it chooses.

So Mr Howard wants deregulation. Look at all the other industries that have deregulated - many wish they had not.(dairy, potato, and poultry industries to name a few.)

The Government may regret this decision.(MIND YOU IT IS ONLY A DRAFT.) We are the ones who will be directly affected by this decision and I still believe the Single Desk is the only way forward.(Why are the Americans so jealous of this system?) Why are the American farmers subsidised? Do we want to follow in their footsteps?

I congratulate the Chair on their patience in running a good feel meeting, all warm and fuzzy - I really hope that the Government listens to what the farmers want and NOT to the big players and Mr Bush.

Yours sincerely, Mrs Lyn Phillips