

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



13 August 2009

LOCALLY PRODUCED FOOD WILL BE MORE EXPENSIVE UNDER RUDD'S ETS

Australian supermarkets will offset the increased price of food, due to Rudd's ETS, by importing even more Chinese, Asian, South African and South American food, sending Western Victorian farmers and food manufactures broke, Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, warned today.

"Western Victorian farmers cannot compete against agriculture imports which are not subject to any carbon tax," he said.

"The fact is that all western Victorians will pay for Rudd's complicated and little understood ETS, but none more so than the region's food producers."

Mr Hawker said the major supermarkets already have form when it comes to importing food at the expense of Australian producers, and their buy Australian policy is only as deep as the next PR campaign.

"Farmers are price takers and they cannot adjust their prices to take into account any extra costs imposed by the Rudd Government," he said.

"If the major supermarkets are saying that food prices will increase by seven percent then you can be sure they will first have either screwed their Australian supplies for every cent they can or they will increase their purchases of imported products which are not subjected to any carbon taxes.

"The Agriculture Minister intimated less than two weeks ago that he thought farmers and food manufactures, particularly those in the horticultural industry were getting ripped off, when he stated; *"you will not find me saying that everybody along the chain at the moment's getting a fair deal, not for a minute. Not for a minute."*

"So even the Minister believes farmers are getting ripped off by the supermarkets and yet his own department has stated that they will be doing nothing to ensure local farmers are not being ripped off under the Rudd Government's ETS."

Mr Hawker said he was concerned that under the Rudd Government's ETS not only would Western Victorian products not be able to compete in the international market place, they would not be able to compete domestically against imports not subject to a carbon tax.

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