

My name is Bob Mathews. I am the owner of 4 IGA Supermarkets, all in NSW, all within 100km's of the Victorian Border, of which 3 are within 15 km's.

Please find my submissions regarding CDS.

1. Victorian retailers \$4 to \$5 cheaper than those across the border making it impossible for NSW retailers to be competitive. ( also applies on Qld and ACT borders)

2. Woolworths , Coles and Aldi absorbed the CDS surcharge selling at Victorian prices using their marked power to further jeopardise border retailers viability.

3. Met the NSW premier in Albury who appeared to understand our plight. She arranged a visit by the NSW small business commissioner to look into our issues.

4. The Commissioner ( Robin Hobbs) met a group of border retailers who provided evidence of the severe impact the consequences of the CDS on our livelihood.

Agreed to visit again hopefully with plans to mitigate our problems.(2nd visit not occurred yet)

On going evidence being provided as proof of retailer issues.

5. Assistance sought from our wholesaler to enable us to be competitive.

Scott Marshall (on the board of metcash - the parent company of our wholesaler) visited albury to get a clear picture of the border issues and concluded that because of the misuse of market power by the chains the border cds issues have been exacerbated resulting in significant damage to our brand (IGA) and an affect on our very viability.

Scott has been having ongoing discussions with the commissioner and a proposal listing 7 alternatives has been presented to the deputy premier and subsequently to the premier and the environment minister.

No word yet.

5. Marketing in our area is an issue with all our tv , some radio and newspapers emanating from Victoria with prices not reflecting the cds charges impacting on our credibility with our customer base.

6. NSW consumers purchasing in Victoria and returning containers at 10c each in NSW.

The EPA is powerless to prevent this double dipping as they are underresourced .

7. Rorting by retailers is becoming rife with product without the cds is coming into NSW in an endeavour to improve profitability or to remain viable. In addition smaller retailers are being forced to buy from their opposition (dan Murphy / first choice)which threatens our wholesalers position which flows on to the retailers,

8 James Mctavish the NSW cross border commissioner has been involved in discussions and appreciates our position and I believe would do something if he could.

He understands , the deputy premier does, the premier understands minister Upton is unmoved and unless she falls on her sword we are up against it.

9. Contact is ongoing with the ACCC outlining the following points.

- the anticompetitive actions of the retail duopoly.

-Woolworths receiving unfair advantage regarding the initial roll out of the RVM machines.

-Woolworths given vetting rights on RVM locations.

-Woolworths being provided an RVM exclusion zone of 2.5 km

-the scheme co ordinators cub, lion, Coca Cola are also the beneficiaries onof surplus funds.

- there is questionable dealings and contracts between Cleanaway, Tomra the scheme coordinators CUB etc and Woolworths. With ultimate beneficiaries of surplus funds to being Woolworths and Cleanaway shareholders.

- the scheme coordinators being the vetting authority overseeing the activities (for example stock movement from Woolworths distribution facility out side wodonga into albury) who just happen to be their biggest customer.

Hardly transparent.

10. Online shopping both locally and from interstate will allow cds free transactions.

11. Sales from retailers in NSW to Victoria cannot include the cds charge and because of the proximity of Victoria many of our retailers have supply agreements with footy clubs restaurants etc which can only continue if a method of claiming the charge back from the govt is arranged ( nothing yet almost 5 months in)

12. I have an RVM in my supermarket it is a filthy dirty vermin attracting eyesore.

If not broken down it is full and won't work.

With the small number of users purchasing items in my shop i am now just a govt atm.

I also am funding the NSW govt scheme as the money paid out by me (up to \$20k per week) I receive in 10 days.

13. Tomra are out of control due to their desperate need for more RVM sights along with the huge amounts of money involved they are throwing money around in the way of new contracts but lack consistency with different offers at different times to different RVM operators.

13. The supposed success of this recycling scheme is being offset by the collapse of cardboard recycling as the RVM users bring their thousands of cans collected from other peoples green bins and very few from roadsides and waterways these cans etc they bring in boxes which get dumped in our general waste bin which goes to land fill.

14. The scheme has been exceptional from a revenue perspective amassing well over \$100 million from Nsw consumers but paid out approx \$8 mill to the redeemers. The result was \$30 mill going to the scheme coordinators some of whom intend giving some back to the poor consumer not out of a feeling of obligation but to try to regain their volume losses in NSW created by the increased in living expenses forced on every man, woman and child in nsw.

15. Why did this bloody govt implement this system in December even the dumbest politicians realise the importance of Xmas trade.

I even met with the deputy premier who assured me he would do all in his power to give us Xmas.

He obviously has less power than minister Upton.

When labour win the next election ex minister Upton will get thank you cards

16. The govt also misused its power to enact legislation removing the ability of local govt to oversee all carpark decisions whereby Tomra did not have to seek a DA to put RVM's in Woolworths carparks.

17. A final aspect to this sad and sorry state of affairs is the imminent demise of keep Australia beautiful a part of our culture destroyed by beuricrats and their political masters along with dirty deeds done by previous premiers and the greens. It is odd that the greens are responsible for the end of "keep australia beautiful "