



Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

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ACCC must investigate supermarket meat prices

The Federal Member for Braddon, Gavin Pearce MP, is calling on Treasurer Jim Chalmers and Agriculture Minister Murray Watt to investigate supermarket meat sale prices and urgently direct the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to hold a price inquiry.

“According to Meat and Livestock Australia, some of the sheep and lamb categories have fallen by up to 70 per cent in the saleyards in the last 12 months,” Mr Pearce said.

“Lamb and cattle prices have drastically reduced, yet families at the supermarkets right across the North-West, the West Coast, and King Island have barely noticed a difference when they are walking through the checkout.”

While a farmer’s payment for cattle (eastern young cattle indicator) has fallen from \$10.21 per kilo to just \$3.65 per kilo over the past 12 months, at the supermarket it still costs around \$36 per kilo for grass-fed rump steak, \$25 per kilo for beef rump roast and \$19 for a kilo of humble grass-fed beef mince.

A farmer’s payment for lamb (national trade price) has fallen from \$8.39 per kilo to \$4.82 per kilo, yet families at the supermarket are paying \$27 for a kilo of grass-fed graze lamb boneless shoulder roast, \$18 for one kilo of lamb loin chops and \$8 per kilo of lamb leg roast.

Mr Pearce said Labor’s recently established competition taskforce, created to conduct a review of competition policy settings over a two-year period, has failed to provide the urgent response that families and farmers require.

“Out here in the bush, families and farmers can’t afford to be waiting for another two years to get answers.”

“This needs to be productivity-driven, and a potential two-year wait simply won’t cut it.”

‘Labor undertaking yet another ‘review’ will simply result in a toothless tiger. The Minister must direct to the ACCC to hold a price enquiry because only the ACCC has the power to act.’

“In a time when families are struggling to afford their grocery bill each week, it’s vital the government moves with a sense of urgency to ensure there’s transparency in meat prices.”

ENDS