

**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 March 2008 1:49 PM

**To:** Grocery Prices Inquiry

**Subject:** grocery prices public input

Dear sir/madam,

with a view to the increase of groceries, I would like to raise a number of questions for you to consider and investigate.

1. When the price of petrol goes up the grocery companies increase the prices, claiming that added fuel costs have caused the price rise. However the petrol prices then drop and we are still charged the higher grocery prices. Why aren't they made to reduce the prices back down? When petrol goes up again the new petrol costs are added on, although we are already paying for the past increase to the same rate.

2. Can you please investigate why items such as tuna (which is not grown on farms which rely on rain) are affected by drought price increases. When the grocery stores claim they need to increase grocery prices due to the affect of the drought.

3. When fruit and vegetables are imported from drought free zones why do they also increase these prices on the drought price list. (A prime example of this was the price of bananas which came from overseas after the recent storm damage to Australian banana crops)

4. I understand that fuel prices may increase by several cents per litre however if the fuel cost rises by 10cents per litre then why should each and every single grocery item also increase by 10 cents . Surely it does not take a full litre of petrol to deliver a single one litre carton of milk.

5. Can someone please workout why products come in smaller packages and yet the price increases. The new improved product that used to be in a 500gram jar now costs more in a 400gram jar. The products shrink the price tags grow.

6. We now have higher prices and less quality and services. The stores are trying to introduce the self service check-out systems. So there will be less people employed and yet the grocery prices will remain the same although the store doesn't need to pay as many staff.

If these matters can be addressed and justifiably amended then we will be going in the right direction to improve grocery prices for the average household.

If you wish to contact me for further clarification of my input in this matter please do not hesitate.

Your assistance in lowering or stabilising grocery prices is desperately needed.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Kim Walters