

There are several ways to empower a rural sector to deal with adversity when it arrives, as it must, seeing that the product is damageable, the base for production is fixed and long term and tied to the environment, that prices are a signal that is often distorted, and costs are imposed at close to will by powerful forces. As well, climate is always prone to destructive excesses.

Yet the product is basic to human survival.

So overseas, they subsidise, as historically producers have been kept in slave like servility, and this is seen to be bad by those who have known hunger by wars.

Command economies have used forced amalgamation to get economies of scale, and failed.

Australia discovered a sophisticated and unique way to empower agriculture to get self supporting powers, generous production for consumers, a business type farming operation, with family responsibility for environmental maintenance. It was born in mateship, mutual support, with statutory empowerment to restrain the big, the ugly and the greedy. The essence of civilisation.

But detested by the powerful, the ruthless and those who cant resist to gamble.

But little Tony pulled it all down. And our opponents cheered.

We don't need the rule of the brutal so that the only help left is charity.

We need the power to obtain a fair share of the price between costs and the consumer. Then we can make our own provision for disasters.

No more back to the past.

Glen Hardie