

#### **NZ's Dairy Sector Institutions**

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Law and Economics Association Wellington Sept 4, 2019





1. What did DIRA do?

2. Has DIRA worked?

3. Is DIRA still needed?



1. Created a near-monopsony for Fonterra at the farm-gate

2. Removed the monopsony of the Dairy Board at the factory-gate

3. Preserved competition in the domestic dairy-products market

# 2. Has DIRA Worked?





Growth in the sector until reaching peak-cow in approx. 2015-16

### Fonterra's Place in the Sector



Fonterra's Farmgate Market Share



# **Increasing Competition**





# Dairy Processors' Performance





#### Average Return on Capital Employed, 2014-2018

# Market Capitalisation





Fonterra's Financial Performance





• Downward trend in performance









- Structure or Strategy?
- Co-op structure not inherently flawed: but
  - sources of capital limited
  - agency costs increase with size
- Was there a clear strategy? volume/commodity and "value-add" – both are capital intensive
- Fonterra's structure did not match its strategy



# Adding value vs adding costs



Excluding Tatua, there is no clear relationship between economic value (NPAT/KgMS) and where a company is on the "value chain" (revenue/KgMS)

# 3. Is DIRA Still Needed?



#### **DIRA Amendment Bill, 2019**

- Proposed changes are at the margin
- Preserves open entry and open exit
- Detailed changes:
  - access to DIRA milk
  - dairy conversions
  - milk-price setting
- Reviews of DIRA every four to six years

# 3. Is DIRA Still Needed?







#### **Farm-gate Market**

Dairy Region	Total production (millions kgMS)	Percentage of national market (kgMS)	No. of processors
Waikato	503	27%	3
Whanganui / Manawatu	81	4%	2
Westland / Nelson / Tasman	85	5%	2
Canterbury	385	21%	4
Otago	101	5%	2
Southland	223	12%	3
Rest of NZ (5 regions)	483	26%	1

ComCom Part IV regulation typically applied where one supplier

### 3. Is DIRA Still Needed?



#### **Domestic Dairy Products Market**

- Under DIRA, Goodman Fielder has guaranteed access to 250M litres of raw milk p.a. at a regulated price
- The Commerce Commission has estimated that if the DIRA Regulations were removed, the domestic raw milk price would increase by around 25%
- Leading to an estimated:
  - transfer of wealth from New Zealand consumers to suppliers of \$51M to \$92M p.a.; and
  - an efficiency (deadweight) loss to the economy of around \$6M p.a.





- Under DIRA:
  - The dairy sector overall has fared well; but
  - Fonterra has struggled
- With increased competition there are valid questions whether DIRA is still needed at the farmgate
- Given the domestic presence of Fonterra, regulation is still needed for the domestic dairy products market



# Over Paying for Milk?



- The Farm-Gate Milk Price shows a general increasing trend
- Fonterra's constitution states that it's goal is to maximise pay-out for milk to farmers, this has incentivised farmer volume production, requiring investment in processing capacity and not value add business







• Fonterra has out-spent competitors



# Debt to debt plus equity, 2018



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