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Dairy enquiry off again

ONCE again the report on the Senate Inquiry into the Australian dairy industry has been put off.

The report was scheduled to be released on February 25, but was extended until March 18.

However, last Thursday it was announced the report into the varying prices paid to dairy farmers in different states would not be released until May 13.

Senate Economics

Committee deputy chair Senator Alan Eggleston said the only reason the report was put off was to give the senators more time to give more thought to the recommendations and outcomes of the inquiry. "We are not going to have anymore hearings," Senator Eggleston said.

"But we want and need to work through more of the issues.

"This will make for a better report."

The report will contain information on the impact of prices paid to producers by processors and market conditions on the dairy industry.

It will also include findings from the inquiry's hearings and submissions which include an insight and recommendations on the consolidation of the ownership of the market and the impact of the concentration of supermarket supply contracts.