Remote Area Aboriginal Community Stores
Human Ecology Forum Discussion
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› Kerry

Senate Hearing Committee
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› Experience

- Kiwirrkurra Store
- Cape York Stores Committee
- Well Person’s Health Check
- Inaugural Speaker at the Food, Nutrition and Human Rights
- Facilitator at the National Nutrition Conference
- Remote Area Store User and Supplier
Best and the Worst:
- Friends took all the ‘high sugar content’ items out of the shop;
- When the meat ran out the store owner said ‘go and hunt it’;
- Fly in fresh fruit and vegies twice a week;
- Finding a Coca Cola vending machine on Mabiaug Island;
- The most sales by Winfield per head of capita in the southern hemisphere;
- Increase in laceration accidents at the introduction of glass bottles;
- Baby bottles being supplied and advocated for use;
- Stores impacting on health and welfare of children

Concerns about Stores
- Normal issues:
  - Costs too much
  - Not enough fresh food
  - Transportation
  - Most expensive in the most remote areas where people have the least capacity to pay
  - Problems with maintenance
  - Mark up on prices and credit
  - Sale of alcohol and cigarettes
  - Access to ‘rubbish food’
  - Store profits

My concern is the ecological footprint:
- A can of baked beans grown in India, packaged in China makes its way to Mimilli Store. What is the true cost? I don’t think this has been done…
- People want to have improvements in transportation of goods. We currently use 35 degree Celsius for our calculations, we will have to use 45 degrees in future.
- The assumptions underpinning the development of stores is the same in urban areas.
The underlying assumptions of stores:

- To completely replace the food production capacity of the systems in which people live.
- To supplement the food production systems is not considered profitable. (Market Gardens)
- Each crop has to produce a cash outcome
- ‘New food’ is better than ‘old/ancient food’

Science meets Parliament:

- Outback Australia should be turned into a Science Park
- Remote Area communities then become sustainability academies...
- This reframes the context in which food is produced and consumed.

What could the role of Stores then be?

What does food production in outback Australian science park /sustainability academy look like?

What would they look like?
What would they value?
What principles would they operate on?
What would we need to do to bring this sustainability academy store ‘into the light’?

- Ecological economic assessments?
- How do we challenge those larger societal assumptions? (profit, new food vs old food, supply)
- What kind of store could operate in what kind of eco system?
- How important then are issues like climate change, drought, distance, capitalism in these discussions?
- What are other important considerations I need to raise?