

WA's Potato Marketing Corporation has long been ridiculed as a relic of industrial protection and a cartel that should have been consigned to the dustbin of history decades ago. The Barnett Government recently caved in and claimed it would deregulate the industry – but, inexplicably, only after the next election. The West Australian has reported this week that the Government has “offered a financial sweetener of \$10 million” if the industry will agree to deregulation being brought forward. The deal is reported to include an “industry support package” to “help with the transition to a free market”. The protected potato growers, who have enjoyed special privileges for decades, do not need “support”, and should have long ago made preparations for the day when common economic sense would see their gravy train dismantled. More exasperating is that the Barnett Government is using taxpayers’ money to negotiate with these mendicants, effectively giving them a say over what should be purely a decision of Parliament. Who calls the shots in WA? No less than an immediate deregulation, without payoffs, is acceptable. Perhaps the Labor Party, long committed to potato deregulation, will introduce such a Bill?

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/27690801/deregulation-carrot-for-potato-growers/>