

Bruce Baker
B.J. & A.R. Baker
The Bamboos
Byangum
Via Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Andrea Coulter
Pigmeat Safeguards Inquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins St East
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Madam, Submission to the Productivity Commission: Safeguards Inquiry into the Import of Pigmeat.

This is a submission from Bruce Baker on behalf of B.T & A.R. Baker into the Productivity Commission's Safeguards inquiry into the Import of Pigmeat.

I have been in the pig industry for 60 years and have seen some hard times but none as serious as the present crisis. We have spent a lot of money on our building and feed processing shed and if these imports are not stopped we will have to leave the industry as a lot of other producers have done already. With all the imports coming in it is keeping a freeze on our low prices and with record high feed prices we can't survive. One time if we had high costs, well, supply and demand would adjust our prices, but with all these imports coming in, and being dumped on our market we can't survive and our industry will just disappear.

We live in the Tweed Valley and when dairying was at its peak we had 1,200 dairy farms supporting 4 butter factories, on these farms there would have been pigs to drink the separated milk. Our rural industries have been hard hit by hard times and deregulation and now we have 8 dairy farms left and 2 piggeries, our own with an 80 sow piggery and another running 40 sows. There were some big piggeries running 300 sows – 2, and some running 100 sows, but these have now closed down.

We supply 2 butchers each week and sell between 1,400 and 1,500 porkers per year. The butchers will tell you its hard to buy good porkers.

Surely there must be very good grounds for the Productivity Commission to implement provisional safeguards and general safeguards to save our industry before its too late.

All of our pig farmers are getting old and there are no young ones to take over as there is no incentive now for them to come into the industry. We are now only a dumping ground for other countries to dump their surplus production.

My wife and I run our beef enterprise now with the help of a very good man who helps us with the piggery and if these imports are not stopped and bring the pig industry back on a stable footing where we can show some profit, we will have to put our man off and shut our piggery down.

Yours faithfully

Bruce Baker