

Productivity Commission
Pig and Pigrate Industries Inquiry
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It is of great distress to pig producers and their related industries, to be victims of the disastrous down-turn of prices in the Pig Industry.

The serious injury to our family business and our only form of income from a 200 sow piggery has affected us for over 5 months due to low prices caused by pork imports.

The following points are applicable to our situation -

- a) The decline in prices has brought about a loss of \$8000 income per month.
- b)
- c) We have fine-tuned our management to the extent where we cannot cut back anymore as this would affect our production and quality - therefore our income.
- d) Staffing levels have had to be cut - it is of great distress to bring your son into your business then have to ask him to leave the family business and find a job. This also places an extra strain on the remaining staff.
- e) Just to exist as a business, we need in excess of \$2/kg. This does not even allow further development to be competitive in the industry. We need to become 'Quality Assured' to compete in the future and to do this you need to be assured of a stable industry of increased prices and extra staff as it is time consuming and a costly project.
- f) In the past, with the exception of 1994/95 downturn, we have run a highly efficient business with a history being profitable and viable.

- g) It should not be tolerated that our Government allows un-restrained pork imports into Australia where it is affecting businesses to a huge loss for such a long period - it is essential that a temporary 4 year quota of some 5000 tonnes and out-of-quota tariff of \$2/k be into place to allow the Industry to get back on its feet. Even to implement this, it will take us up to 2 years to recover from this present disaster.
- h) Our records show that we are in the top 20% of pig producers in Australia, if our productivity has declined to the figures shown in this document, how can our Industry survive at these low prices.
- i) A desperate attempt needs to be made to control the imports of pig meat or we are going to have a non-existent pig industry - is this what the Government wants ????????? more people out of work and a strain on the health system.

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