

**NSW**

21 November 2001

Citrus Industry Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2  
Collins Street East Post Office  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir

We would like to submit our point of view on the state of the citrus industry.

I am a second generation farmer on this orchard. In the recent years we have seen a deterioration in the industry, due to the importation of FCOJ and no longer have government support in the way of import quotas, tariffs, sales tax concessions and exemptions as we had in previous years. We just can't compete with the rest of the world. How are we expected to compete with countries that don't have anywhere near the costs we have (labour workers comp, superannuation) let alone base our price on theirs.

Over the years we have been told to get more efficient, so we have done that. We have changed our varieties, put in drip irrigation, high density plantings etc. Fortunately we have our own packing shed and have moved away from juice fruit to fresh fruit packing varieties (navels) and are still hitting our heads against a brick wall.

Today the citrus growers in Australia are some of the most efficient and switched on farmers there is. So from a growing point of view there is not much more we can do, as growers, to compete. IT IS NOW UP TO THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP US or we will be in a dying race.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Nardi