

City Engineering
Services.
Murray Valley Hwy..
COBRAM. VIC. 3644.

CITRUS INDUSTRY INQUIRY,
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION.

Dear Sir,

I am concerned about the long-term viability of the Citrus Industry in the Cobram/Barooga area, which is served by my business City Engineering.


Over the past few years I have seen growers incomes and prosperity deteriorate markedly. We at City Engineering welcome this opportunity to point out that the tariff protection against fruit dumped from Brazil and others, is now just 5% (down from 35%), making competitiveness of local growers and packers almost impossible.

My business repairs and custom builds orchard machinery, as well as attending to the machinery used in fruit packing. As the situation here has worsened, growers and packers don't have the funds to maintain their equipment. This threatens the viability of my business, and the jobs of both myself and my employees, not to mention the safety of orchard workers using machinery patched up on the cheap by amateur mechanics.

To ensure the Citrus Industry in the Cobram/Barooga area survives, provides orchard and packhouse jobs, and patronises businesses in surrounding towns I urge a return to realistic levels of tariff protection for the industry (e.g. 24%).

Yours faithfully,

S. DUBOIS
MANAGER
CITY ENGINEERING SERVICES.

 6/11/01