

This is a typed copy of a hand written submission

D & K Zolunardo

NSW

1 December 2001

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

Dear Sir,

My family has been working on the Citrus farm for 14 years. I have a wife and daughter.

My wife has to work in town to help keep us going.

I work seven days a week and my wife picks on weekends as we cannot afford to pay pickers.

The production cost is over \$200 per tonne and I only receive under \$100 per tonne and if I had to pay pickers about \$65 to \$75 per tonne to pick how can we survive.

This has been going on for many years now and cannot last much longer.

I think the biggest help we can receive is to reduce the importation of cheap FCOJ.

I can only see my future in the Citrus Industry for the next 12 months. If nothing is done to help the Citrus Industry then I will be forced to do the same as my neighbours

And leave the trees to die. This way we have no more expenses such as water, chemicals and so on.

If farmers cannot make a living off the farm then the whole town suffers as there is no money to be spent. It is one big circle.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

D & K Zalunardo