

NSW

21 November 2001

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

Dear Sir

We, Frank and Domenic Mercuri are concerned about the current state of the citrus industry.

We are second generation citrus growers and have been on the land for all of our lives.

We are concerned with the price we are getting for our product, the price never seems to go up, but seems to go down as time goes by.

We know there is a lot of concentrate orange juice coming into Australia, our main concern with this is not the amount but the price it is coming in at.

Our major processors keep telling us they can buy concentrate from \$20-\$40 per tonne. How is it possible for a country to grow, process and ship to another country for that sort of money, without being subsidised?

We feel that this issue is the only thing, if changed, that may save the current state of the citrus industry. We don't grow enough citrus to supply Australia's needs, we should be encouraged to plant more citrus not to pull the ones we have out.

Yours sincerely

Frank and Domenic Mercuri