

NSW

21 November 2001

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

Dear Sir

I am a second generation citrus farmer who has been on the farm my whole life.

Prices we have been getting for our citrus are not viable for our long term sustainability. The current cost of production for my property is approximately \$250 per tonne, and some prices I have been receiving have been a mere fraction of this. If this situation continues I will be forced to leave my farm and search for alternative income which will be very difficult at my age as I do not have a trade or a tertiary education and would most likely end up on the dole.

Water, fertiliser, chemicals and wages are all major costs to me on my farm.

The drop in tariffs in the late 90's has greatly affected my business. Imported fruit flooded our domestic market at cheap prices, meaning our fruit had more competition and sales and demand dropped.

If the government is unable to assist us, why can't they buy our land back, for reasonable prices, allowing us to make lives elsewhere?

Yours sincerely

Frank Scali