

NSW

27 November 2001

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

Dear Sir

I, Frank Zappala have owned and worked Farm, 25 acres of Valencias, since 1963. I am now at retiring age and because there is currently no future in the citrus industry I cannot sell my property, no body in their right mind wants to go into farming citrus.

My wife and I have had a hard time since buying the farm, we have many debts and are finding it hard to have enough money to even feed ourselves.

Nobody in this country seems to understand that we should be looking after our producers, first and foremost, as they are the foundations of living.

Cheap juice coming in from overseas, and the government's persistence in keeping the tariff low have contributed to the current state of the industry, and may be the downfall of not only the industry but many small rural communities.

It is about time we look after the honest people who work the Australian soil and try to protect their future.

I am hoping that we may get help, through the Productivity Commission, once it is understood just how desperate our situation is.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Frank Zappala