

26TH NOVEMBER 2001

**CITRUS INDUSTRY INQUIRY**

Productivity Commission

Locked Bag 2

Collins Street East Post Office

MELBOURNE VIC 8003

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We as citrus growers are continually being asked to improve fruit quality. This may be through fertilisers, chemicals, pest monitoring, up-to-date irrigation system and in most cases a combination of all of these.

As a result a great deal of time, resources and of course 'money needs to be spent to be able to meet these demands and hopefully produce quality fruit.

The current contract price being offered by our local juice factory could not possibly be expected to cover these farming practices. In addition to this the grower also has to allow for labour costs:- wages, superannuation, workers compensation, etc.

The low price of Brazilian concentrate is unfairly being used as the basis of the pricing structure in Australia. The running costs in Australia are substantially higher than in Brazil and other low cost producing countries.

The industry needs to have stability and the Australian grower should be rewarded for producing good quality fruit with prices that suit the higher standard of living in Australia.

Yours sincerely

George & Maria Nardi  
BUDWOOD ESTATE P/L  
NSW