

I.K. Caldwell
102 Broadway St
Cobram. Vic 3644

CITRUS INDUSTRY INQUIRY
PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION.

Dear Sir,

Since tariff protection for the Australian Citrus Industry was reduced to 5%, all growers and packers of our acquaintance have faced hard times as they struggle against fruit dumped on the Australian market.

Local growers, packers and exporters have been forced to reduce inputs to the absolute minimum thereby compromising efficiency, competitiveness of local produce, environmental considerations, and long term viability.

Quality assurance schemes guarantee marketing and export of top quality fruit, modern irrigation methods use water very efficiently, sprays must be safe for the user and the rest of the ecology, fertilisers must not get into waterways and wetlands, and machinery must be safe for users.

All the above costs money. Not only are growers unable to farm effectively, but the flow-on effect to the whole town is noticeable. As a business servicing the Citrus Industry, we have seen a steady decline in recent years in chemical sales to growers. Naturally this has implications for the viability of our business, and the security of all staff employed here. Many jobs also exist for pickers, packers, orchard workers and labourers.

If the Citrus industry is to survive, there must be a return to realistic levels of tariff protection.

Yours faithfully,

Russell Fox
Cobram Branch Manager.
I.K. Caldwell.