

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

Dear Commissioner

**Response to the Citrus Growing and Processing Position Paper**

I have been a citrus grower in the Riverland for almost 30 years and have been involved on water management boards for over 15 years. I am currently a board member of the Central Irrigation Trust and wish to raise the importance of water quality and supply to the citrus industry in both South Australia and other regions reliant on the Murray Darling Basin System.

Increasing cost of water to producers is acknowledged in the Position Paper (Findings 6.5)

- > Future of a healthy river system is paramount to the future of the citrus industry.
- > Citrus requires high quality water to produce quality fruit; water has a dramatic impact on quality.
- > Need most updated technology to monitor water supply
- > Government should introduce tax incentives for water monitoring systems
- > Water Management - Presently in the hands of the Ministerial Council and the IVIDI3C, need one organisation which is not political.
- > Need a government commitment to the Murray Darling Basin for the next 20 years with the aim of reducing salinity and increasing flow.

I look forward to discussing these important issues further at the Hearing on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Renmark.

Jack Papageorgiou

## Murray-Darling Basin

- Australia's largest and most developed river system
- Covers more than one million square kilometers of land
- Incorporates 75% of Australia's irrigation
- Provides over 41% of Australia's gross value of agricultural production
- Provides drinking water for over three million people
- Encompasses 30,000 wetlands
- Represents much of Australia's unique flora and fauna

## We Should

- Agree on the limits placed on the Basin's natural resources
- Strengthen links between land use planning and catchment planning
- Make sure the cap stays in place
- Get the Commonwealth & States to commit adequate resources to improve the river systems