

NSW

22 November 2001

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

Dear Sir

My family has owned and worked Farm 1832,, 88 acres of citrus, for the past 36 years. This farm was originally half citrus and half stonefruit, but we slowly converted it to be all citrus. Both my brothers and myself have been farming with my father since leaving school.

We have been exporting our navels and valencias for the last 10 years, with this we have endeavoured to keep up with new technologies and trends, but with reducing prices of citrus this has been very difficult to do.

Factors we feel that are contributing to the profit margin on citrus are:

- Labour costs such as superannuation and workers compensation,
- General Farm Insurance,
- The reduction in tariffs on imported overseas orange juice,
- The low price that FCOJ is coming into Australia governing our floor price for all citrus products,
- Consumers are finding it hard to recognised Australian product, both fresh and juice products, because of inadequate labelling laws,
- The ease of other countries being able to get their fruit onto our markets, without stringent control of both quality and disease protocols.

Being a second generation citrus grower, I would dearly love to pass my share in the farm onto my children, but if things are not changed this is very unlikely to happen.

Yours sincerely

Joe D'Aquino