

DUDLEY MARROWS

MARROWS ESTATES PTY. LTD.

ACN 001 388 085
Horticultural Enterprises



"Summer Gold"

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29-11-01

Ms Carole Gardner-Trenberth
Administrator Coordinator
Productivity Commission
Level 38,
35 Collins St.,
Melbourne

Dear Ms Carole Gardner-Trenberth

Citrus Growing and Processing Industry

Further to yours of 3/11

Enclosed is coverage of a submission of mine relative to a NSW Citrus Industry Feasibility Study as covered at a local meeting with the Aurora Practical Solutions Pty Ltd.

The copy mentioned on page 2 is that which I made to your Commission

Materially relevant to your inquiry is that N.S.W. proposes a similar large horticultural development.

The Aurora "ultra simplistic" suggestions were not well received at the local meeting!

Whilst writing I'll try to make two fundamental points:

1. It is so that a very good return can be made from citrus if you have the right quality, sized fruit at the right time. Usually from trees from 10-25 years of age but the balance of the orchard has to be maintained, reworked, replanted to varieties that your crystal ball tells you that there will be high priced global demand in ten years time.

2. The attraction of great taxation gains are attractive to some - as is development of any kind to some local or government interests

Yours sincerely

Dudley Marrows

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27 November 2001

Mr Robert Mansell
Chairman
Murray Valley Citrus Marketing Board
PO Box 1384
Mildura 3502

Dear Robert

NSW CITRUS INDUSTRY FEASIBILITY STUDY: **The Aurora Practical Solutions Pty Ltd meeting**

We must understand and not underestimate government and other force to bring about increased production regardless of the interests of existing growers.

Evidenced by the recent meeting with NSW government sponsored Aurora; and, the Federal Government Productivity Commission Citrus Industry Inquiry.

For possible value to our troubled industry we must make strong, factual submissions to such inquiries/studies: additional heavy planting without some consideration to our industry would cause great harm.

Factual submissions surely must help both our existing, and, possibly future growers.

Submissions showing how free trade/competitive policies have not enabled our once proud industry to be the vital internationally competitive industry we know it could be – with "fair" international trading conditions.

Aurora, without due regard to market availability and many other factors, concentrated on the long understood "simplistic", but, without government force, the practicably unachievable benefit available from national unity of growers.

A benefit even if achieved with government force, would not offset unequal international trading conditions.

Aurora's knowledge of our industry was sadly 'deficient' they did not spend time to listen.

Aurora took the unusual procedure of filming the meeting business, stating the objective was to assist compilation of minutes.

Minutes that they stated they would not make a draft available.

I strongly recommend that we request Aurora to "expedite" supply of a copy of "their" minutes.

Further that we request copy of their brief and advice as to their knowledge of our complex industry.

Any undue delay would prevent any reply thereto in the inevitable time delay before future meetings/enquiries.

Relevant to my strong submissions at the Aurora meeting, I am the unnamed single grower who submitted to Aurora.

Prior to commencement of the meeting, on first contact with the Aurora officers I was referred to by one officer to the other as the originator of the only submission in a tone that I felt there was concern regarding my submission.

Thereafter at the meeting I had to force to have my views heard.

The submission I made is that I made to Productivity Commission Citrus Industry Inquiry.

I respectfully state that such submission would provide good background for further industry submissions.

Copy is attached.

Additionally, in view of the strong presence and input by Lou Revelant of the NSW Department of Agriculture, at the Aurora meeting, together with subsequent coverage in the Sunraysia Daily article of 13 October (copy attached) I recommend that we ask the NSW Minister for Agriculture, Mr Richard Amery, for advice as to:

- (i.) what, if any, commitments have already been made in support of a major expansion of citrus growing
- (ii.) whether there has been any practical support forthcoming from outside interests
- (iii.) whether there is acknowledgement of the "massive" taxation deductions available – including that from GST
- (iv.) whether he is aware of the Victorian proposed large scale horticultural development: The Deakin Project.

Yours respectfully,

Dudley MARROWS, ASA
DSO, DFC