

10 November 2001

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

Dear Sir/Madam

RE.

SUBMISSION - CITRUS INDUSTRY

Farming has been my vocation for 40 years and was my main source of income for about 30 years.

My 30 acre farm has always been a mixed orchard, comprised of oranges, peaches, and grapes.

Up until 10 years ago, having a mixed farm safeguarded my income. If one of the three plantings suffered a downturn, usually the other two would compensate for it. We haven't received an income from the citrus for 10 years and because of the age of my grapes and peaches, they are not producing so well. 10 years is along time to wait for a turn-around.

I am 67 years old and I don't wish to expand my farm any further. I just want a fair price for my oranges. I sell my oranges for about 7 cents per kilo and when I see them on a Woolworths shelf for \$1.50 to \$3.00 per kilo, I can't see how they justify the difference.

I remember receiving between \$200.00 and \$300.00 per ton 20 years ago, before concentrate started being dumped on our markets.

The odds of survival are firmly stacked against us. We are not asking for charity, just a level playing field will do.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

Mr N. Mancini