

15 March 2002

Citrus Industry Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins Street East Post Office
Melbourne Victoria 8003

John Cosgrove, Presiding Commissioner Professor Richard Snape, Deputy Chairman of the
Productivity Commission

**Northern Territory Citrus Growers Response to the Citrus Growing and Processing
Position Paper.**

The Northern Territory Citrus Growers Association had involvement with the development of the
Australian Citrus Growers submission to the Productivity Commission

The Northern Territory Citrus Growers Association fully supports the Australian Citrus
Growers Inc response to the Draft Position Paper.

The Citrus Industry in the Territory is only in its infancy yet already niche market times that our
growers have identified as financially viable have been eroded by imported product. We cannot
comment on the citrus industry as a whole but in our short time in the business have found it
increasingly difficult to encourage new growers into the industry because returns to the growers
have been steadily dropping. Our experience is that all our growers need to supplement their
citrus income with other farm or off farm income. This is not something a grower wants but it is
a necessity. Obviously something is wrong!

The Northern Territory Citrus Growers feel your draft report is a poor attempt to investigate the
citrus industry as specified by the Treasurer. Our members reject the draft recommendations.
We find it hard to believe that given the broad scope of your enquiry you have managed to
completely misrepresent the financial plight of a great many citrus growers across the country.
We are extremely disappointed with the draft and through the Australian Citrus Growers Inc
will be attending the public hearings to attempt to add some balance to a biased and flawed
report.

Yours Sincerely,

Geoff Bengert
President - NTCGA.