

21 November 2001

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

Dear Sir

As citrus producers, our family has been farming for forty years. In this time, we have seen the citrus industry slowly deteriorate before our eyes.

The issues I feel should be addressed in your inquiry are:

Cheap concentrate eg. Australia does not produce enough for its own needs, thus, we feel that the Australian government should be encouraging growers to produce more not less but cannot compete with the cheap prices of imports.

Labour costs eg. Sold fruit for \$60 and cost more than \$60 to pick it, we have to account for superannuation and workers compensation. Our competing countries pay minimal amounts for their labour, meaning they can sell for much lower prices than we are able to.

Future In Farming eg. Farmers are getting older, and their children are not willing to take over the farm due to the hours involved for little return.

The large differentiation in pricing along the market chain, where growers are receiving \$0.10 per kilo for their produce and consumers are paying up to \$2.99 per kilo. Where is the money going????

I am worried about the future of the citrus industry as a long term viable industry if nothing is done to improve our situation.

Yours sincerely
Vince Iannelli