

G & M Parris & Sons

Orchardists

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To The Australian Productivity Commission,

My name is John Parris from Shepparton Victoria. I trade under the name of G & M PARRIS & SONS ORCHARDIST P/L. I am a 3rd Generation Grower and we have been in the Fruit Industry for about 70 years, growing and supplying SPC Ardmona solely.

My main produce is Canning Peaches in which I have roughly 400 acres. All my produce has always been delivered to SPC Ardmona for processing. It consists of 90% of my income. My quota now for this coming season in 2014 has had a massive reduction been placed on it, to no fault of my own. The reduction is so great the future for my survival is at major risk. Last season quota was less than our production, which in turn made us walk away from blocks and left fruit to rot on trees.

I feel that the main reason for all my lose is due to Cheap Import taking over the sales in the Supermarkets. I take pride in my farming and I grow good clean healthy produce for people to enjoy and know they are feeding their families Aussie Grown produce. Us Australian Growers need to jump many hurdles with all our Quality Assurance programs to prove and support our quality. Imports that flood our Supermarkets should have to follow our strict quality guidelines and consumers need to be aware of the difference in quality.

These reductions made by SPC Ardmona will make life for me extremely hard. I am forced to make dramatic cuts with my employees and staff. Approximately 20 families rely on their income from me, and they are in extreme danger of losing their jobs. I must reduce all spending, being Chemicals, Contractors, Season Labour, and general spending on Farming to survive. The flow on effect with me spending less means less money into our community, and as all other surviving Grower's will be doing the same.

If this industry does not turn around and SPC Ardmona ceases, my livelihood and career is over. I will never enter the Farming sector again, I will have to go and re-educate myself into another field.

SPCA must survive and to do so they need some breathing space through tariffs which are allowed under the WTO Safeguards Agreements. I strongly support SPCA in being given emergency provisional safeguards for 200 days, followed by longer-term full safeguards.

SPCA is almost 100 years old and my family has been a part of that for 70 years. Our Town and surroundings and Australian need this company to regain strength and begin to thrive like it once did.

Yours Faithfully

Mr John Parris