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To whom it my concern

Trevaskis Engineering is a family owned business that has been operating in Tatura, Victoria for 54 years. We currently employ 34 staff from Tatura and the surrounding area.

Our core business is sheet metal engineering, this includes jobbing work for other engineering companies, capital works projects for food processing factories, contract work for other manufacturers, feeding systems for the dairy industry and Hatchery automation.

Over the past three years we have experienced a significant downturn in business. We service a number of industries that have all experienced a general downturn, some of which has been attributed to cheap imports and the high Australian dollar. Whether it is gas cylinders, farm equipment, processing equipment or food products, it has all had an impact on our customers and ultimately our business as well.

SPC Ardmona was one of our largest customers and we were involved in a number of capital works projects each year either directly, managing and building processing equipment or providing services to other contractors who were also working for SPC Ardmona. In the last three years we have seen a 60 percent drop in revenue from SPCA due to the cutbacks they have had to make. The revenue from other contractors working for SPC Ardmona has also dropped significantly.

The impact of this, along with a downturn in other sectors, has seen us reduce our workforce by 40 percent since November 2009 and most recently 23 percent of our workforce was made redundant in September 2012.

The importance of food manufacturing in the Goulburn Valley is absolutely critical to local business. Without a healthy food industry a number of businesses in this area would cease to exist.

Trevaskis Engineering has felt the impact of cheap imports on our business first hand and support SPC Ardmona's submission for safeguards to protect the canned fruit and tomato industries.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Mason  
General Manager