

To Productivity Commission

1. Statement of Serious Injury.

The serious injury to my 90 sow piggery business as a result of low pig prices over the last 10 months caused by pork imports is as follows.

During 1997 when prices for pork was fair to good we employed 1 full time staff and 1 casual. We have since retrenched our casual labour, and had it not been for our stud cattle enterprise would have been forced to retrench our permanent.

Our piggery has been designed to extend to 200 sows, but owing to poor pork prices we have put all extensions on hold and can see no point in extending without a 5 to 10 year assurity of better prices. I do not believe any business enterprise would spend in excess of \$300,000 (100 + sows at up to \$4,000 per sow unit), without some long term business plan. Without some cap on imports this is impossible to do. At the moment we are unable to do any major repair work because of lack of incomes. We also have an upgrade of our milling shed on hold due to the same reasons.

Should the profitability not improve over the next 6 months, we are seriously considering closing down the pork production of our enterprise.

Over the last 6 months our debt level and our bank has risen by approx \$40,000.

At no time in the last 10 years has our debt level increased so dramatically in such a short time as it has in the last 10 months.

2. Recommended Safeguards to be applied.

A temporary (5 year) quota of some 4,000 tonnes and an out of quota tariff of \$2/kg is essential to provide the breathing space needed for orderly adjustment and development of a more efficient, internationally competitive industry.

Lynn Dahlheimer

Bill Dahlheimer