

**Department of
Primary Industry and Fisheries
Tasmania**



OFFICE OF SECRETARY
AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8 September 1998

Productivity Commission
LB2
Collins Street East
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Attention: Ms Andrea Coulter

Dear Ms Coulter

**PIG AND PIGMEAT INDUSTRIES: SAFEGUARD ACTION AGAINST
IMPORTS**

The pig industry in Tasmania is a small yet integral part of primary industry in this State. The Australian Pork Council Pig Research and Development Corporation publication, PMSTATS97, indicates that slaughterings for the twelve months to June 97 were 76,000 from a State herd of 4,666 sows. The farmgate value of production is estimated to be around \$13 million.

It is estimated that the industry directly employs 80 persons and indirectly is responsible for approximately 100 jobs particularly in the value adding industry of smallgoods and processing.

The industry is an important user of grain and other feed inputs produced in Tasmania as well as forming part of the critical mass required for economical feed grain imports into Tasmania. The continuation of the Tasmanian Wheat Freight Subsidy is crucial to maintaining the competitiveness of the Tasmanian pig industry.

As you are no doubt aware, the national pig industry is under enormous financial pressure and this cost price squeeze is magnified for local producers given their higher costs of production. The current national crisis regarding the supply of product, including imports, has flowed onto the Tasmanian pig industry.

Producers have been actively investigating ways to ameliorate the current depressed state of the industry. On 14 August 1998 thirty producers attended a Pig Producers Survival Workshop conducted by the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) business skills program, Farmwi\$.e.

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) Pig Division has convened a meeting for 9 September 1998 of all stake holders to discuss the future sustainability of the pig industry in Tasmania. At this meeting the opportunities for developing a Strategic Plan to identify development opportunities for the state industry will be discussed.

Yours sincerely

(Kim Evans)
SECRETARY