

4 October 2004

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To the Productivity Commission.

I submit this submission because of my great concern of the pork industry.

Imported pork is having devastating effect on the local people forcing local producers into bankruptcy, which in turn takes revenue away from other industries that rely on the pork producer for trade.

The imported pork has the same effect on the smaller local processors who depend on the producer for produce.

The local producers and the people that rely on them for trade create a lot of employment and revenue in the rural communities.

Unfortunately large corporates that are importing pork are using it to suppress the markets that the local producer relies on, these large corporates are using the imported pork to gain a monopoly over the industry, in so doing they are skipping the rural communities of much needed employment and revenue that is needed to hold them together.

We have about 400 sows at our farm growing through to bacon, we employ four full-time employees and two part-time workers.

We buy in grain mill and mix all our own feed, grain at times is hard to get, which adds to a pork producer's problems especially in drought periods.

The pork producer also has environment issues to consider as well as the animals welfare, under the present system it is impossible to generate a cash flow to invest back into the industry to combat these matters.

It is just impossible to generate enough cash flow to invest back into the industry while pork is being allowed to be imported into Australia under its present format.

During 2003 which was the worst drought in Australia in 100 years there was 60,000 Tonnes of pork imported into Australia which is about 1,000,000 live pigs before they are dressed out.

At that period grain prices were forced to a record high \$350 per Tonne which is understandable in drought times.

All our farm would have needed to see us through those hard times would have been \$2.70 a k.g. dressed weight for our pork, instead we were forced by large corporates, because their efforts to try and destroy the family units and gain a complete monopoly of the industry, we were forced to accept \$1.70 a k.g. dressed weight for our pork. This meant that we were losing \$1.00 for every k.g. of meat we produced.

This caused our farm to go in debt \$400,000 through that bad period. We had a similar situation back in 1998 when large corporations used imported pork to force the price back below the cost of production, we lost \$500,000 during that period.

Given a level playing field the Australian domestic producer will produce pork as efficient as any other country in the world.

I think it is very bad politics for a government to allow large coporates to take advantage of these bad periods and use imported pork to deliberately try and destroy the local producers.

I check on the retail prices of pork in the supermarkets when going through most weeks. The low prices were never passed on to the consumer during these bad periods, the average price per k.g. for fresh pork remained about \$10 retail.

I believe there are eleven country been given authority to export pork into Australia. I have nothing against these for taking advantage of the situation, to me it only proves their politicians look after their constituents better than ours look after us.

There seems to be a lot of emphasis placed on the one world trade organisation, which to me seems very foolish, for something like that to operate effectively you have to have a balanced wage structure across the world which there is not.

Australia has the most unbalanced wage structure of any country, it is very much off balance.

Our farm has been paying on average about \$12,000 dollars a year levy money to the government, this money is supposed to be used to help and research markets for the pork industry.

It is a compulsory levy that we have to pay, for governments to take a levy off us this way then turn around and give our markets away to other countries is very wrong and unfair.

It is disappointing the pork industry is treated this way, because Australia could develop a very good pork industry given a chance, Australia has a large area that can tolerate a pork industry, also has the soil type that suits it, and a good climate for such an industry.

Australia produces all the raw materials that are needed to service a pork industry.

Australia has the advantage of a very good health status. It is also situated in a good position to take advantage of the Asian markets, Japan is supposed to eat 1,500,000 tonnes a year on their own.

We should be like Canada. They use the pork industry to help the grain industry which helps to keep rural areas together.

There has got to be something wrong with the Australian pork industry, when, Australia can produce such large quantities of the raw material that are needed to service a pork industry yet countries like Denmark and Canada can export into Australia and almost destroy the local pork industry.

It is obvious that the Australian pork industry has been exploited for too long.

To say the Australian pork producer has got to get more efficient is unfair he is already pushed beyond his limits, given a level playing field the local domestic producer will produce pork as efficient as anybody else in the world.

Industries like the pork industry are very much needed throughout Australia to help create employment and hold rural areas together.

To say you should leave the industry is unfair and wrong. There are five people relying on our farm for a living if we closed they would have to leave the area looking for work or go on welfare.

There is about one million dollars worth of infrastructure involved you just can not turn your back on it and walk away, my whole life's work could be ruined.

Yours sincerely

W. Evans