

Deakin ACT 2600

29 July 2013

Processed Tomato Safeguards Inquiry
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Sirs

I have just become aware of this Inquiry and, although the date for submissions has passed, would like to make a point about Australian processed tomato products which relates to my own experience.

I am Carer for my wife, who suffers from advanced congestive cardiac failure. As such I must carefully monitor the salt content of all food I prepare for her, and have discovered that this is high in the Australian processed tomato products which I have found generally available, compared to imported varieties.

A quick survey this afternoon of the shelves of my local IGA for canned tomatoes of various kinds revealed that the two Ardmona products there contained 228 and 270 mg per 100 grams of sodium, and an Edgell product 299 mg per 100 grams.

This is of concern, as the medical advice given to my wife is to avoid all foods with a greater sodium content than 120 mg per 100 grams. Indeed the Australian Heart Foundation's literature sets this figure as the maximum regarded as of being of low salt content, and observes "Reducing your salt intake can be as easy as switching brands" - perhaps to to made more difficult in this case if healthier imported brands are to be penalised.

By contrast to the Australian brands at IGA, three imported Italian brands on the shelves contained 14, 62 and 100 mg per 100 grams of sodium respectively. The Italian brand I have recently been using contains 15 mg per 100 grams.

Much as I normally prefer to buy and support Australian agriculture and industry, in this case it is impossible to do so. In this context it would seem to be wrong to penalise the far healthier imported alternatives.

Yours faithfully,

Ross Gengos