

Dear Productivity Commission,

I am currently a student, completing a degree in writing and publishing who is very concerned about current affairs.

My relatives do not work in automobile manufacturing but that doesn't mean I am not concerned for my fellow Australian citizens who do. Currently, Holden employs a considerable amount of people in South Australia, where I live, and to close this sector down would not affect their living standards but also their quality of life and sense of identity.

To close down the auto industry would not only cost thousands of people their livelihood but would also make their lives more uncertain and insecure. Dumping people in this way is cruel, although of course of no concern to the affluent and the business and corporate sector who feed off the carcasses of such lay-offs. Any such closure would surely incur my wrath and I'm quite a lot of other citizens who are sick of being treated in an appalling manner while the coal and many other industries enjoy subsidies and the corporate sector enjoys tax cuts at our expense.

This is important to me because it smacks of injustice to dump thousands of workers. It is no accident that those areas which are unionized and pay highly are being shut down here and those which are paid lowly are being kept. This is in keeping with Neoliberal ideology and has nothing to do with 'productivity' as the current jargon would have us believe. Justice is not being served here nor is closing manufacturing in Australia good sense.

Kind Regards,  
Dorothy Papanicolaou