

Dear Productivity Commission,

I am the proprietor of a small business which has been continuously trading since 1982. I live and work in regional Victoria.

There are small businesses in my district who supply and service the automotive industry. These might only employ a handful of people but if they closed, the detrimental impacts on a small community would be enormous. Retailers would lose income, schools would lose students, and so on. These businesses need to employ skilled people and by extension, local TAFE's in providing the skills training, depend on these businesses. A 'smart' country needs smart people and the technical nature of the automotive industry provides work for smart people.

Australia needs a manufacturing base in order to maintain a critical mass of highly skilled and trained people. Our role as the world's quarry is declining. Our future economic engine must be more diverse than simply Coles and Woolies. The challenges of the future will require good 'brains'. Without auto design and manufacture as a nursery for these brains, they will atrophy and the world will leave us behind.

This is critically important to me. I know good people who will suffer should the auto industry shut down. I am proud that Australia produces automotive products that are world class. I respectfully request that the Commission consider the long term benefits of maintaining an auto industry in Australia. This is not just about Holden, Ford or Toyota but includes the hundreds of businesses and the thousands of their employees that are the auto industry collective.

Kind Regards,
Brad Hooper