

Dear Productivity Commission,

I worked for GMH for several years in information management helping safety engineers develop a better airbag. As a result of their efforts, this technology was taken up globally. It has saved countless lives around the world. This would not have happened without Holden in Australia.

If the auto industry shuts down, South Australia and Victoria will go into recession, as the flow on effects will be severe. Many more rely on this industry than just the car makers. It will mean a lower standard of living and that puts our children at risk.

Without manufacturing, engineering and the research that goes with them, Australia will just be a quarry, reliant on the speculation of the resource market and imports. All Australians need a healthy car industry to provide these jobs and to ensure we have the skills and infrastructure to make and create things not just now but if we are ever cut off from imports, as occurred in WW2.

Are you Holden or are you Ford? This is a core question for Australians, part of their national identity and rivalry. What will replace it? Are you BHP Billiton or Rio Tinto? The car industry could make cleaner, greener cars but in Australia surely we still need to be making cars, to keep jobs, skills, technology and the wellbeing they bring here.

Kind Regards,  
Shirley Deviesseux