

Dear Productivity Commission,

I am an early arts director and researcher with 40 years of Australian and international experience.

The loss of employment that will ensue will diminish the spending power of the whole community. The flow-on effects of this will have long term ramifications, with participation in and enjoyment of arts activities one of the first of many areas to be hit.

The increase in our bill for imported cars and other vehicles will have appalling consequences for our balance of trade. At the same time dole payments will escalate and valuable skills will be lost from our community. The contribution of the motor vehicle industry during WWII should never be forgotten - bren gun carriers, field artillery and even aircraft poured out of our car factories.

I am amazed that the possible closing down of Australia's car industry is even being contemplated. Like so many I have always been proud of the high quality of motor vehicles made in this country. And I am proud of the initiative and leadership that set up our motor vehicle industry in the first instance. The adventurous spirit of the past that marked Australia's beginnings seems to have died.

Kind Regards,
Helga Hill OAM