

Dear Productivity Commission,

A professional working in the creative industry.

Cars have always been a part of the Australian psyche and identity. Identity is what gives worth and pride to a people, their country and their products. It is what makes objects desirable to other countries and to people &mdash; &quot;It is so Australian&quot;. As we leave industries and skills behind, the very ability to create something for ourselves is lost, and a part of what makes us Australian is lost. It corrodes our ability to stand apart and manufacture an &quot;Australian Way.&quot;

What next? Once we lose manufacture, and the potential manufacturing has to inspire people to 'support their own', we become a country that lacks something (anything) of their own. We just dig holes in our land and our forests that mining engineers say will &quot;never recover&quot;.

I don't want to be a part of a bland country. A country without identity. A country that cannot manufacture for itself. I think, as a Government, and your role in history, surely you want to carve for yourself a place in time where you inspired the people of Australia to be &quot;Australian&quot;, to do things their way, with their own workers, resources, customers, designers, innovators. A golden age of pride and direction. Instead, it is an age of lacking, cutting, taking down, corroding. Problems are solved with making and thinking, not subtracting!

Kind Regards,  
Bonnie Abbott