

Dear Productivity Commission,

I have grown up in the Auto industry, an Apprentice developed into a large business manager through education and disciplines experience in the industry. External and internal studies have made us capable of leading multi national businesses.

My family relies on our type of work for growth, education, innovation and opportunity. I'm not sure where my 2 sons will persue carrers in Engineering and design if the only significant manufacturing industry we have left also dissapears. I guess they'll end up in asia supporting their transition into a booming economy of manufacturing capability.

Shutting down the industry would probably mean half of Adelaide and a third of Melbourne would be in recession, no work, it's bad enough now, our children will look for work overseas, house prices will drop significantly, look at the effect in North America, engineering skills will be lost for ever.

I don't believe Australia will ever recover if we don't have a plan B to continue manufacturing. Having no base industry will equal no ability to develop niche business with global recognition, no next generation consumer products being develped, we will end up shipping sheep and dirt to someone else in the world to process and our economy will collapse. We won't be capable of any transition to an "Advanced Manufaturing" country as there will be nothing left to build from. Then filling the billions of dollars lost in the economy will be impossible.

Every one in the world knows a country cannot survive as a competitive global player if you don't have a manufacturing industry, The auto industry is regognised globally as the best for breading skills and entrepreneurial endeavours. Countries who have dismissed these facts are now scrambling to regain an auto industry or reinstalling some policy which maintains a critical mass of sales and production in the country. It is also criminal that a government would hand over hundreds of millions of dollars to a company and not understand it's growth strategy and business plan to maintain profitability in such a saturated market, which they have created.

I fear for the future of the country and our ability to support the next generation of young enthusiastic professionals. Many businesses have closed already and many more to come, this will surely cost the country more than the investment needed to ensure we keep an industry which generates so much. I suggest you have the balls to be involved in the countries well being and protect it from collapse, be interested in your investment and not lazy in you daily accounts, stand up for what we need and drive it in the right manner don't give the hand outs and expect it will be just fine.

Kind Regards,
Mark Coupe 12 Argyll Walk