

Dear Productivity Commission,

Hi folks, I am a 63-year-old tradesman in the printing industry with two adult children. We all drive Australian-built Holdens or Fords, including my wife and believe that, as a country, we have already lost far too much of our manufacturing ability to cheap, sometimes inferior, imports.

Our household motto is "Buy Australian Made or BYE Australian Made" and unfortunately, various business and Government policies, have contributed to the loss of home-grown manufacturing and product development, often in the chase for higher profits for stakeholders, almost always to the detriment of numerous Australian jobs and product quality. Losing such a large number of jobs, both directly and indirectly, how will that effect those surviving on the already pittance of a pension, imagine around 200,000 more mouths to feed from the public purse.

Losing our auto industry will put us at a disadvantage, particularly to take Dick Smith's words in reference to Qantas, that if a situation arises which involves hostilities, particularly with a vehicle supplier to Australia, we would have no ability to second a local auto manufacturer to build vehicles. Such a scenario would put us on the back foot and seeing vehicle building depart our shores, would remove the pride that patriotic Aussies have of owning an Australian-built vehicle. This would force us to buy an import, some of which are simply cheap and nasty, which we have never done. Removing pride from many Aussies would no doubt flow on to other products and leave us with a country of couldn't-care-less inhabitants, and that attitude wouldn't augur well for a proud Australia! It's bad enough now with vehicles with a crash rating of 2, or undersized vehicles like the Smart, being allowed on our roads. What message does that send to Aussies, including all the hype on road safety.

We feel that having pride in one's country and political system (our political leaders are already tainted with not listening to the electorate), goes to the heart of the issue and as a family, we have always viewed buyers of foreign imports as less than patriotic. The same goes for businessmen who buy exotic cars and then claim them on the company's tax, this should be to the value of the most expensive locally built vehicle, over that value, no tax relief. Holden has a very proud history in Australia and if you do your homework the original Holden Motor Company built various vehicles for other manufacturers in it's early days and even had an involvement with Melbourne's W-Class trams, now all for what. . . Remember "Buy Australian Made or BYE Australian Made" and YOU can make the difference!!

Kind Regards,  
Neil Connell