

Dear Productivity Commission,

I have worked as a mechanic since I left school and started an apprenticeship when I was 16. I'm now 28, fully qualified and off the tools. I purchased my house in Mudgee NSW when I was 25 and have a mortgage. I currently own a 2008 Holden Commodore Ute that I bought new and has served me very well.

As I currently work in the automotive industry as a Mechanic/service advisor, I have a very good perspective on the industry from a service point of view. Where I work is a multi franchise dealer including Holden, and on the service and spare parts side of things we deal with many local suppliers to the trade.

Do you know or realise how inconvenient it is to wait a month or so for parts to fit a rubbish import when it is off the road and no parts are available here?

There are no better cars for our conditions here than a locally Designed, engineered and BUILT car, a quick comparison between a ten year old Commodore/Falcon/Camry vs Some European Rubbish that have done a couple of hundred thousand km and I'd stand by the local cars to hold up better. People are dumb and shortsighted when they buy an import.

There is a lot more at stake than what the general population realises and when we lose Ford, then if Holden and Toyota follow this country will be screwed. The manufacturing industry is such a diverse sector and the Auto side is an important and technological part of its backbone. It's a lot more clever to build a Motor Vehicle than it is to dig coal out of the ground, and the mining industry won't last for ever. Better to have a stable and long term plan for manufacturing to diversify our country's income.

Why do foreign owned Mining company's get the diesel fuel tax rebate but other industry groups don't get similar tax breaks?

Why does the government scrutinise the auto industry so toughly for assistance, when they give almost twice the amount to the banks in assistance?

I've grown up as a Holden man, Dad has always had Holdens plus one Falcon, and that's the way I was brought up. You either had a Holden or a Ford and somewhere along the lines I reckon Australia has forgotten how important it is to back herself and support local company's and Jobs be it in the Automotive industry, food, clothing, or anything else. I will be personally gutted if we were to lose the Automotive industry and I would NEVER EVER buy an imported car for as long as I shall live.

Kind Regards,
Nathan White