

Please accept the below as a submission in response to the Productivity Commission Preliminary Finding Report and the Position paper.

I write as a working married father of two children aged five and two. We are a working class family that live in an outer suburb of Melbourne called Croydon. We drive two Australian built Falcons, one is a sedan and one is a wagon, and we are proud to drive these cars. We vote and we pay taxes and we struggle with ever-increasing bills and very little assistance from the government. I always say to my children our cars are made by Australians for Australians but any way it is all over now and my children will never own an Australian built car and that is very sad.

What annoys me is that politicians with no foresight or skills and politicians that have never manufactured anything except spin killing this great industry, what a total and utter disgrace. I had a submission ready to submit but now with the sad news that Toyota is also leaving, my submission has changed a lot.

No one in government seems to care what Australian consumers think and supporters of Australian industry so this is why I make this submission.

**Government ministers blaming Australians like our family for not supporting the industry**

I find it highly offensive when we get blamed for not supporting the industry like what Mr Hockey said being "The issue is Australians are voting with their feet in not buying Australian-made vehicles." What a load of rubbish and it is just not true and is an attack against all the families like ours that support Australian industry through putting our money where our mouth is and buying Australian made cars and goods. I have to say after that blame shifting by Mr Hockey, I will never be voting for any party that has Mr Hockey as a member of it.

**Why waste the time of the Productivity commission and all the people and organisation that made submissions**

Hundreds of thousands of dollars of people's time was spent on submissions in person and in writing and all of it was a total waste of time as the government applied the pressure before the commission could report and killed one manufacturer and stood back while the last one went.

**A disgraceful position paper by the Productivity Commission that achieved its aim, it played it's part in the total wipe out of the car the industry in Australia that will lead to massive job losses and massive financial pressure on Australian families.**

If I were Toyota, I would have read your position paper and pulled the pin, as the commission wants the Automotive Transformation scheme to end and any funding to Toyota to cease by 2020. Hang your heads in shame for failing Australian workers and families.

**Why is the Institute of Public Affairs controlling policy and who cares about stupid battles between wets and dry's and the left and right, what a total and utter load of rubbish?**

I have concerns when a minority pressure group like the Institute of public affairs is controlling policy. They call themselves independent but when liberal members used to work for them and attend your meetings, your independence should be called into question. What really annoys me is the IPA will call for the death of the car industry by saying all government funding should be removed but will defend government assistance for anything that effects its own members like negative gearing and the private insurance rebate. It does not matter what you call it, all of the above are government assistance for industry and speculation. It is time for the Liberal government to stop listening to the IPA and start to listen to Australians or rest assured the Liberals will be held to account at the polling booth.

Also Australians do not care less about so called battles between wets and dry's, no body cares, get over yourselves, you represent Australians so start representing us and cut the stupid games, grow up you pack of fools.

**Now the attacks are starting against unions and Australian workers wagers**

I see the government has attacked the unions for the loss of car manufacturing, I find that a bit rich, what about the small tariff we charge and how we have let imports flood in with no controls? Rest assured this is just the beginning, how long until Work choices comes back under another name. I have no doubt the plan is to force down wages. What really, really annoys me is while the politicians that are doing this to Australian workers and families expect and accept massive pay increases, politicians are nothing more than a pack of hypocrites.

It is time for the Liberals to learn some new tricks as we are over the same old attacks, unions represent Australian workers, you attack unions you attack Australians workers.

**Lack of politicians with any for sight and skills**

I am so disappointed in the politicians we have in state and federal politics and there lack of any real broad experience and skills.

To illustrate my point let me have a look at our local members and their backgrounds:

- **Tony Smith, our local Federal Liberal Member for Casey.** All Tony Smith has done before politics is work for the Institute of Public Affairs, need I say any more? He also worked for Peter Costello and has no experience at all in manufacturing anything expect spin for the media. I have also dealt with Tony Smith about an Australian manufacturing company and he did nothing to assist the company, or me and I will never ask Mr Smith again for any assistance, as he is useless. I am not at all surprised Mr Smith stayed quiet about the death of the car industry.
- **David Hodgett, our local State Liberal member for Kilsyth and the State minister of Manufacturing.** He should be called the minister of the loss of manufacturing. He has no experience in manufacturing anything and has only ever worked for the government. Not broad experience by any measure.

If you went through all our politicians, you would be shocked at their backgrounds. We need politicians with broad and real experience but the party machines are so hard to navigate that all we get is similar people in politics and people that do not represent their electorates or our views and do not understand what is really going on for Australian families. This is true for the Liberals and the ALP; they are as bad as each other. Where are the bus drivers, the manufactures, the tradesmen, the small business owners, these are the people we need in politics and we need more women.

**Get the Australian dollar down, do not talk it down, force it down, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has failed Australians.**

What is the RBA actually doing to try to reduce the dollar? Not much and it is too late after manufacturing has been wiped out to get it down. The RBA has handled the high Australian dollar really poorly. The RBA were happy to support the dollar through direct action when it was low but did nothing when it was up high expect talk about it and look what has happened? Thousands and thousands of Australians losing their jobs.

I think the Reserve bank of Australia is out of touch, arrogant, they do not listen and should be held to account for their actions or lack of any action.

**Economy is transition? To what?**

- As the submission from Holden's states, 'no one yet has described in detail how the economic shock and significant unemployment will be dealt with in Australia if automotive manufacturing goes away.'

**I would like to ram home a couple of points from the Holden and Ford submissions:**

- Australia is now one of the most open automotive markets, with an effective tariff rate of around 3%. This compares to EU/UK – 10%, China-25%, India-100% and the USA-25%.
- Currency intervention: conversely, the interventionist tactics engaged in by the Bank of Japan, designed to devalue the YEN to enhance the relative competitiveness of Japanese manufacturers.

Mark my words these will be the last Fords we ever drive and we will never own a Holden or a Toyota again. These companies think they can sell out Australian workers, I would like to say to their senior management "You sell out Australian workers you sell out all Australians and you must pay and someone must stand up and say NO that is not good enough and we as a family are doing that."

**Holden can spin stories like we are "here to stay" that is nothing but a total lie and is offensive.**

Anyway, to many people they could not care less if thousands of Australians lose their jobs as long as their houses keep going up but how many jobs does property speculation really create or sustain?

Good bye Ford, Holden, Toyota and our last local fridge plant in Orange, when will it stop when there is nothing left and we became "a farm, a hotel and a quarry" as Holden boss Mike Devereux stated.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Koci

Croydon, Victoria  
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