

14th September 1998

Pig and Pigeat Industries Inquiry
LB2 Collins Street East Post Office
MELBOURNE. VIC 8003

Dear Sir,

We are an efficient 140 sow enterprise with production figures equalling the best performers in Australia and have adopted quality assurance procedures. Our end product is of high quality and receives much praise.

However we have experienced serious injury as a result of low pig prices this year as follows:

Our cost of production is \$1.90 per kg and have therefore been in a serious loss situation for 7 months.

We were forced to terminate the employment of our worker who has been with us for 4 years.

Our debt increased dramatically and we were forced to consult a Rural Counsellor.

Cease expansion and improvement plans.

Maintenance reduced.

Understaffed.

Furthermore, the threat of serious injury is demonstrated by the fact that due to the change in the market environment caused by unrestricted pork imports, I can no longer predict future pig prices and trends, and this has severely limited my ability to plan future production changes.

A temporary (4 year) quota of some 5,000 tonnes and an out-of-quota- tariff of \$2/kg is essential to provide the breathing space needed for orderly adjustment and development of a more efficient, internationally competitive industry.

Yours sincerely,

W. & K. Edson
EDSON PIGGERY PTY LTD.