

Sutterby Farms P/L
"Clutha"
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Productivity Commission
Pig and Pigmeat Industries
Safeguard Action Against Imports

The increased level of imported pigmeat has had a severe effect on the profitability of our business, the saleability of our product and our ability to employ people.

With Canadian pork legs taking over 30% of the domestic market for this prime part of our product, our financial ability to hire employees has been reduced from three in 1997, down to one in 1998. At present our employee is the only one receiving a wage, while we go further into debt. This situation can not continue.

We are a small family business, producing an excellent product. Because of unfair competition from imported pig meat we face a grim future.

Unless the Government is convinced safeguard action needs to be taken immediately, we will be out of business and in need of welfare payments.

It is impossible for us to be competitive in a global market when other countries help their pig producers with both direct and indirect subsidies.

We have survived low prices for our product from time to time over the years before the introduction of the "level playing field". The lack of action by the Government to address the present situation, for which they are largely responsible, is deplorable.

Without producers, Australia will not have a domestic industry producing pork.

Robert Thomas Sutterby
Jennifer Nancy Sutterby
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per J.N. Sutterby