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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007

Pigmeat Safeguards Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2  
Collins Street East  
Melbourne Vic 8003

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**Submission to the Productivity Commission: Safeguards into the Import of Pigmeat**

We have been pork producers for over 25 years producing pork for the local domestic trade. Our unit is currently operating a 60 sow piggery on a batch farrowing system. Our piggery is run as a Partnership with our three children helping out as well. We occasionally employ two part-time workers in the busy period of our farming enterprise. The piggery is our main source of income.

Our major concern is the Importation of pig meat into Australia. We believe that this is putting downward pressure on local prices with our price average being \$2.50 - \$2.80 for the last 18 months.

If the current status quo is to remain with imports and that with the price of feed and the feed shortage, it will drastically damage the Australian Pork Industry to be able to sustain its ability to supply the local fresh pork market. This will result in regional job losses and reputation to be able to reliably supply our own local retailers with an Australian grown product.

There must be a financial incentive for farmers to be able to improve their production systems for the betterment of Agriculture. If the Productivity Commission chooses to ignore the financial pressures on pork producers, the Australian Pork Industry could very easily lose a lot of experienced experts in 'Research and Development'. This does not need to happen because of the lack of support from the Australian Government.

With the latest disaster on Quarantine (EI), AQIS is in complete disarray with the monitoring of any importation of anything at the moment. So with the imported pork that comes into Australia, what hope do we have of being able to tell if it has been cooked properly or released onto the local market as fresh pork?

In conclusion, this is not an easy time for Pork Producers and associated Pork Industries. I personally know of 6 producers who have vacated the industry in the last 18 months. They are good honest people with sound business skills. These people are too good to lose to our industry, but because they are in the 50 to 55 age group, they see no future in busting themselves everyday because of high imports and low prices. We need genuine assistance to make a long term and sustainable future in the pig industry.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Clancy