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Pig meat Safeguards Inquiry

Productivity Commission

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To whom it may concern:

Re: Submission to the Productivity Commission: Safeguards Inquiry into the Import of Pig meat

This is a submission from John Hill T/A "Bailey Creek Piggeries" to the Productivity Commission's Safeguards Inquiry into the Import of Pig meat.

I am sixty years of age and along with my wife and son we run a 1600 sow family farm situated near the town of Monto in the North Burnett Queensland. I have been in business for approximately thirty-eight years and operated as a partnership with my son for seventeen years. We employ twenty people whose family's all depend on the sustainability of our business for their livelihood.

For many years now we have competed with cheap subsidized imports- not always very successfully but we have managed to maintain staff levels and pay our way, although our debt level has increased significantly. In order to do this we have traveled overseas studying and bringing back the best technology that the world has to offer our industry.

This year in Australia imports have risen to an all time high with processors creating an over supply by paying more at times for imported product just simply to suppress the price paid for local product.

The on going drought and strong Australian dollar has seen feed grains costs increase in excess of sixty per cent. As a result of these two major financial pressures on our business we have found ourselves in a situation where we are unable to continue Pig Farming with out some form of protection at government Level.

Many people in urban Australia would have you believe that Australian Agriculture is inefficient and unnecessary. They believe that all our protein requirements could be sourced more efficiently from over seas markets. I can assure you after visiting many farms through out Europe, Australian farmers are some of the most efficient producers in the world operating completely free of subsidies. I pose the question. If Australia did not have agriculture industry would these over seas countries be so willing to sell us protein at such subsidized levels? You only have to look at the price paid for protein by other countries in our region that do not have a sustainable agricultural industry.

On behalf of my family and the many thousands of people associated with the Australian Pork Industry I strongly appeal to you to make serious consideration to the submission made by my industry body (Australian Pork Limited) and impose a protective tariff immediately on imported pig meat.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hill', with a small dot above the 'i'.

John Hill
Managing Director
Bailey Creek Piggeries.