## **Andrea Coulter**

## Pig Meat Safeguards Inquiry, Productivity Commission

## LB2 Collins St East

## Melbourne VIC 8003

Chairman of the Productivity Commission and Analyst Chairperson

Since our presentation to you in Brisbane on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2007 we have taken the time to reflect on the other submissions we heard during the day.

There did appear to be one very serious train of thought within the majority of the submissions and discussions.

We felt that these thoughts were along the lines of a shrinkage to the Australian Pork Industry to the size of supply to a fresh pork market. This would basically give the processing market to the importers. This would be disastrous to our industry and eventually lead to the collapse of the industry.

Please let me on behalf of our family enterprise explain our thoughts.

While ever the pork industry is trading, we need a viable and critical mass of pigs for slaughter.

We accept imported products at a reasonable level not the current levels. We will continue to trade and compete as we have done but we cannot compete with this open gate type of trading. If imports were at an acceptable level, there could still be an Australian Pork Industry with a commitment to the future for not only the industry but our families as well. The way the government is shafting us at present we, the producers, will be walking away from an industry that has been our life. This situation will affect a lot of businesses in the aftermath.

Probably some further rationale behind the flood of imports could be over production overseas, pork prices cheap overseas and hefty European export subsidies thus making this the ideal opportunity for importers to flood our markets.

As producers, we have fought and worked very hard to achieve a mass of production that will be viable and supply abattoirs and give them enough through put for total efficiency including export opportunities.

These critical mass numbers support efficiency and justify exported accredited abattoirs that we fought for. (We will export again). We do have a product that is noticed and desired internationally. The total business activities of the Australian Pork Industry,

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past present and future will fail if we allow the continued level of imports to enter our country.

In conclusion, we seek your support in hearing the pleas of a failing industry because of Government decisions.

Signed

Terry Reed '

for

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