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To whom it may concern;

Submission to the productivity Commission: Safeguards Inquiry into the import of Pigment

I appeared before the commission in Canberra on Tuesday 27th November 2007.

I was of the opinion that the Australian industry case at this hearing provided ample evidence of the damage caused to our industry by the unforeseen rapid increase in imports. The commission obviously did not agree.

At the time imports were opened up our dollar compared to the US dollar was much weaker. The rapid increase in the value of the Australian dollar has made Australia a very attractive destination for people wanting to export to our market.

Despite the rise in feed costs here and overseas, exports to our country still seem to be able to undercut our prices despite their feed prices also rising.

At the Canberra hearing, the Danish representative made various allegations, as to how inefficient we were compared to Denmark, I felt from reading overseas publications, he was exaggerating their position. The arrival of Pig International Magazine shortly after, with a detailed overview of the Danish Industry written by the Danes showed that he was overstating their performance.

It is very hard for us to be "World Competitive" when feed price increases in Denmark led to the Danish pig produces being granted extra export subsidies to

enable them to compete on world markets, we received no such subsidies.

Our prices had a rise in December early January, this was not enough to be profitable, but was enough to enable to carry on.

Our prices have fallen 50 cents a kilo in the last four weeks, since it became obvious that overseas pig meat will continue to be dumped in Australia in large quantities.

We realise that high feed prices are a major concern for us. But if we had some relief from record imports of pig meat, the price we receive for our product would rise to be competitive with local lamb and beef prices, which do not have import competition.

Our farm and employees once again request relief from the size of pig meat imports so that we may have a chance to see if we can compete into the future or have to exit the industry.

We have identified areas in our piggery, where we can achieve productivity improvements, but can't carry them out until we can better see what the future holds.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. B. Edgerton'.

Geoff Edgerton