

# **G, N & J DREW**

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To Whom It May Concern:

Submission to the Productivity Commission: Safeguards Inquiry into the Import of Pigmeat.

This is a submission from G,N&J Drew to the Productivity Commission's Safeguards Inquiry into the Import of Pigmeat.

In this submission we wish to address the impact that imports are having on our business.

We are a family owned 150 breeder farrow to finish operation with one employee located on the far north coast of NSW.

Our farm has been in my family for four generations, and for the first time we are facing the prospect of having to sell up, because it is become increasingly less profitable as the amount of subsidised pig meat imports is increasing.

Although over the years we have invested in new housing and equipment to stay efficient, we can no longer confidently borrow money to continue to do this, because we know at any time the processors can order large amounts of this meat at subsidised prices and store it, which has the effect of depressing our farmgate prices to levels below the cost of production. This situation is occurring now, and has cost us our employee, as we cannot afford his wage. This has placed more workload on myself, leaving less time for my family. We have had to take on increasing debt because of the depressed price, which has added to the financial hardship of my wife, our two young children and myself.

For processors trying to use Australian pork these imports prevent them from entering into long-term price contracts with growers because their markets are inconsistent and unpredictable. As these circumstances force more piggeries in my area out of business the local processing works is struggling to maintain enough through put to remain viable. If they are forced to close it would mean not only the loss of the 60 or so jobs directly employed there and local job losses, in related industries, but also would mean the next nearest export processing facility is four hours drive away, which is not an affordable or practical option, meaning we would have no option except to exit the industry.

We have no doubt that imports are causing this serious injury to our business and without immediate safeguard action the Australian pork industry will sustain permanent damage.

Yours sincerely

Nick Drew

Manager

