

Productivity Commission hearing
Geelong T.C.F.
Thursday 5th June 2003, 1:50pm.

TCF Employs	2150 direct	5000 people
	2838 indirect	
	14.2 % of Geelong Manufacturing Workforce	

Industry turnover is	\$ 440 million in the region
	\$ 70 million in wages to Geelong economy
	60 TCF business operating in the region.

Geelong	14.2 % of manufacturing workforce
Victoria	8.9 % " " "

Employers	Godfrey Hirst	700
	Huyck	187
	Brintons	170
	Melba	130
	Geelong Wool Combing	120

The nine largest companies account for 66 % of total employment in TCF

Since 1997 the following companies have closed:-

Glassweave, Burrowes Industries, Bay City Clothing, Elite Fibre Australia, AGS Pty Ltd, Nara Fashions, Hello Fashions, Glenros, Kinnears Ropeworks.

Since 1997 TCF jobs have decreased by 1,150 to 2,150.

Weller study showed that in 1997, 600 retrenched textile workers 53% were jobless after 2 years.

- We oppose a reduction as the Commission suggests.
- Impact on Jobs in the Region.
- Our Region is dependant on TCF

In summary the Geelong and Region Trades and Labour Council suggests:-

Maintain the current freeze in tariffs until it can be demonstrated that any reduction is in the interest of Australian workers, and until such time that our major trading partners reduce their tariff and non-tariff barriers to a level equal to Australia.

Continue to fund an industry assistance program similar to SIPS, but ensure that any new program ties business assistance to the on-going employment of Australian workers

Fund a re-training program similar to the Labour Adjustment Program (LAP) that is specific to the TCF sector and pays workers for the period of re-training

Clean-up the TCF industry by ensuring that all workers, including home-based outworkers, are paid award wages. Work in safe and suitable conditions and ensure that Corporations Law is amended (as promised prior to the previous election) to ensure that workers' entitlements are given priority above all other creditors so in the event of company collapses workers receive 100% of their entitlements.