



The Secretary

Senate Panel Affairs & Transport Ref Committee

Dear Sir / Madam.

It was said in the 70s, when the economies of both Britain & Australia were in disarray, a lecturer on economic warfare was asked by a student 'who was the worst Prime Minister Wilson or Whitlam?'. The lecturer's reply was that 'anyone could destroy the economy of Britain, however, to destroy the economy of Australia, that took a genius'.

It took a certain amount of genius to, with just a few ill-chosen words 'To

Destroy our diplomatic relationship' with our very large near neighbour.

Show thousands of his people & small business out of work. &

Shut off one of their main supply of vital products.

And at the same time in Australia have thousands of cattle in lambs in transit yards & holding facilities

Shut down trucking companies across the top end of Australia + putting hundreds of drivers etc out of work.

Throw possibly hundreds of helicopter pilots + support staff out of work.

Affect the lively hoods of hundreds of small businesses in towns across rural Australia.

Hundreds of rural families without an income. Many Aboriginal owned stations that employ + train hundreds of young aborigines affected + probably have to lay off staff.

Also, affects the income of semi-retired pastoralists (like the writer of this) who rely on part or an income from a property to maintain a self funded retirement who may have to turn to social benefits.

It would be hard to find another situation in Australia's history where one ill considered snap decision did as much damage to so many people in two countries.

Yours faithfully

J. B. Percy