

54361273

27-1-04

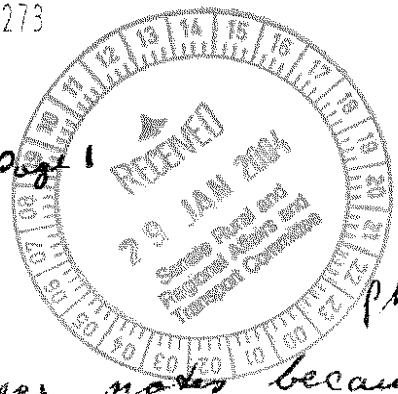
W. T. EVANS

R.M.B. 2480

EAGLEHAWK

VIC 3556

Ph 0354361273



To senate committee

Dear Sir.

I am writing these notes because of my great concern about the state of the pig industry.

I think it is long overdue that some thing should be done about large international companies deliberately trying to destroy local people.

They import large volumes of pig meat on pretext that it is in short supply locally, it has never been in short supply it is just that they refuse to pay the local producer a fair price so they can operate in a reasonable capacity.

They import thousands of tonnes a year using it to subsidize their own farms, and it is also used to deliberately suppress the local market for the local producer often forcing them to sell below the cost of production, often forcing the local producer into bankruptcy or out of the business.

All the local producers for is a level playing field. Caps are needed on the size of piggery as well the amount each company should be allowed to export, companies often took on large contracts, but dumped the product on the domestic market when they lost them creating major problem in the industry.

54361273

under the present system it is impossible to generate a cash flow to improve our infrastructure.

Australia is in a good position to develop a very good pig industry we are close to Asian markets who are traditional pork eaters, Japan is supposed to eat 1,500,000 tonnes a year on their own.

Why put it all at risk by allowing a few large international companies to import large amounts of pork and in so doing run the risk of bringing in diseases that are not in Australia it would be stupid to allow this to happen.

Australia has a good clean health image.

Why ruin it just so a few large companies can make a quick buck at Australia's expense.

It will be our grand children that will have to pick up the mess that is left behind by these companies when they pull out after they have stripped the country for all they can.

What we need is a lot of well supervised small processing companies spread around the country, instead of allowing a few large

54361273

Page 3

companies destroy all before them just so they can gain a complete monopoly of the industry.

Which is just no good for the long term well being of the nation.

A lot of small processing plants spread around the country would create a much better balance of composition and fairer method of

trading.

We do not need imported pork. The risks and hazard far out way any good.

After all there are only a few large companies using it to make a quick buck.

Given a fairer go and a level playing field the family units are well ^{not} truly able to produce it.

The smaller family businesses spread around the country would be much better for the rural areas and better for Australia in the long run.

The general public never benefit from the cheap prices that are caused by the imported pork, the low prices are never passed on to them.

54361273

Page 4

I have been in the pig industry for 40 years and have always followed the markets very closely and say over the last 8 years the marketing situation has been very poorly and unfair.

We have just come through the worst drought in one hundred years of which made life on the farm very hard, grain prices unavoidably got very dear.

But all we would have needed during the 18 months of the drought would have been \$2.70 K.G. to keep us out of debt, but unfortunately we were forced to accept as low as \$1.70 which meant we were losing as much as \$1.00 on every K.G. of pork we produced and sold.

It just proves how callous our government is and how roofless large companies are towards ordinary people.

They deliberately took advantage of this very bad period by using it to destroy as many local producer as they could.

Why else would they have gone to the trouble to import a record amount of pork during 2003 when there ^{drought} was at its worst causing a glut in the pig industry and much hardship to the local producer.

54361273

Page 5

There was 52,500 tonnes of pork imported this is equivalent to 735,000 pigs dressing out at the average weight of 72.116.

This was used to deliberately suppress the market for the local producers like ourselves.

Besides working 10 and 12 hours a day for 18 months through the bad period for nothing, I have had to accept a loss of \$300,000 on top of it, which has robbed me of my superannuation. This has happened to me twice in the last 10 years.

All indications are that it is going to happen again in 2004, there was a record monthly amount of pork imported in October and November, 5991 tonnes in October, 5521 tonnes in November on top of this they have lost 48% of the export market to Japan and 13% of the Singapore market, these together make things look very bleak for us in 2004.

If it does happen this year I will be forced out of the industry and left holding hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of useless infrastructure.

A great way to finish up a lifes work when all I would have needed to make some profit during that bad period was \$2.70 KG not much to expect when the same product retails in the super markets for about \$10KG average.

To say we Australian farmers have got ^{to be} more competitive is foolish, Australia has the most unbalanced wage structure of any country in the world which prohibits us from operating in a one ^{world} trade organization, for a one world trade operation to be able to operate there has to be an equal wage structure right through out the world other wise some countries have an unfair advantage over others.

Also some countries have a very substantial levy system to operate under, this gives them an even bigger advantage.

Our politicians should wake up and get with ^{it} there present attitude is going to destroy the whole agriculture industries and ruin Australia as a nation.

Hoping for change.

B. Evans