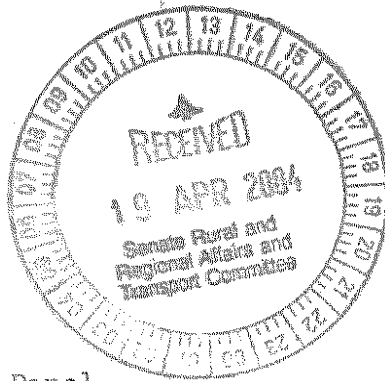


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THE HOMESTEAD
RATHBURNIE ESTATE
1166 MP. STANLEY ROAD
AVOCAVALE DISTRICT
VIA LINVILLE. Q. 4306.

14th April, 2004.

The Chairman,
Senate Banana Review Panel,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA.

A.C.T.

Dear Sir,

SUBMISSION.

- A. I am not associated in any way with the banana industry other than as a consumer.
- B. Whilst free trade and globalisation have some merit, there is no sense in importing goods into Australia which can be produced here at all seasons of the year.
- C. Such importations require unwarranted use of energy and release of extra greenhouse emissions, therefrom.
- D. It would result in less income for Australian producers - already facing reductions in terms of trade from 250 in 1973 to below 100 to-day (ABARE figures).
- E. It would result in further decimation of rural and regional Australian population and associated services.
- F. China is already investigating ways and means to increase the income of rural dwellers, whereas Australia seems bent on reducing the income of rural producers and thereby eventually becoming more dependent on imports of products grown here at present.
- G. Economic and environmental sustainability can be achieved by a sustainable silvopastoral system utilising native forests thinned to optimum spacing to allow perennial groundcover to feed domestic and native animals below. Plantations do not support biodiversity; but also they utilise much more water (a scarce commodity in this driest of all continents with little snowmelt to supplement our natural rainfall precipitation.)

Please consider.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) V.D. BURNETT

TRUSTEE - ESTATE G.C. BURNETT (DECD.)