

**From:** Atlanta Fruit Sales [mailto:[atlanta@atlanta.com.au](mailto:atlanta@atlanta.com.au)]  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 September 2018 3:48 PM  
**To:** Chambers - Kovacic DP  
**Subject:** Casual and part-time employment-Horticulture

To Deputy President Kovacia,

Re: AM2014/196 and 2017/197

With regard to the above - we as fruit growers feel we are being constantly slammed by the rising costs of running an orchard.

We are reliant on weather with regard to harvest, pruning, thinning and other areas of outdoor work.

While we try to keep our work hours Monday to Friday from approx 8.00am-4.30pm - there are times where this is just not possible.

We also rely heavily on backpackers who want to work for as many hours as possible in a shorter period of time. The new overtime for casuals will impede this. We simply cannot afford to pay casuals an overtime rate.

We are being crucified by the supermarkets with regard to price. We were getting more per case of apples 20 years ago than we are now. How is this industry supposed to survive?

There are a lot of orchards in our area that have walked away from the industry. What will happen I wonder when there are no more farmers growing fresh produce?

Would you be happy to purchase and consume 100% imported produce?

Essentially, paying overtime to casuals will put us out of business.

Regards,

Mark & Jackie Paganoni.

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