Cosmo John DeVito
Transporter and fruit grower
Born: June 17, 1943; Walkerie
Died: December 11, 2005; Walkerie

Cosmo (Cossy) John DeVito was a successful businessman, employer and farmer, always remained loyal to the town of Walkerie in the Riverland, South Australia. As a young child, he attended the Walkerie Primary School and finished his secondary schooling at Sacred Heart College in Adelaide. He returned home to run his family farm. His father, an adventurous man, started a fruit and vegetable growing business.

After the death of his father in 1978, Cossy's tracking empire began. He started with a fleet of 60 trucks, mainly Ford Louisville LTS 9000s, and expanded to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. He had depots in Adelaide, Melbourne and Mildura. Cossy DeVito was recognised as a leader in the road transport industry. His business grew to more than 8000 tonnes - to the various wineries at harvest time.

He had lived with diabetes for 15 years, and five years ago was diagnosed with chronic renal failure. Initially he was given six months to live, but with determination and help from his family and staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he beat the diagnosis and another five years. Initially he spent months in hospital and another year living in Adelaide to monitor his disymmetry. Eventually, he returned to the Riverland and was discharged to the Berri Hospital three days a week, for five hours each day.

Although trucks were his life, he was also very interested in buying and developing more vineyars in Walkerie. The two businesses went hand in hand as he was able to sell his own grapes - more than 8000 tonnes - to the various wineries at harvest time.

Cosmo DeVito survived by his 89-year-old mother, Iolanda, sisters Agnes, Anna and Rita and brother Tony and their families.