

**WILLAWONG
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25 March 2008

Mr Roger Beale AO
Chairman
Quarantine and Biosecurity Review
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir

The recent outbreak of equine influenza in Australia and foot and mouth disease in Britain underscores the need for biosecurity in primary industry both within the country and for imports.

The biosecurity on our farms is at risk. Dr Mike Bond, Chief Executive Officer of Animal Health Australia was quoted in The Rural, 24 August 2007 that "risks could include animal movements, such as the introduction of new animals".

In spite of this known threat, we have traveling stock routes and traveling stock reserves. Travelling stock pose a serious threat to animal disease control.

Travelling stock routes are no longer required for stock transport. During normal seasons the main users of the stock routes are stock traders with small holdings who use the stock routes for cheap grazing.

During drought some landholders do use the stock routes. However, as their total area is only 0.5% of the total area in NSW, it does not benefit the majority of landholders.

We have 8km of stock route passing through our property. In the past 12 months, thirsty cattle have jumped fences and mixed with our stock on two occasions. This makes nonsense of the NLIS system as the properties entered and passed along the stock routes are not entered on the database.

I would appreciate your consideration of the closure of stock routes for biosecurity reasons. There is a considerable risk of the spread of disease such as foot and mouth by travelling stock.

Yours faithfully



Jane Wallace D.Ag.Sc.