

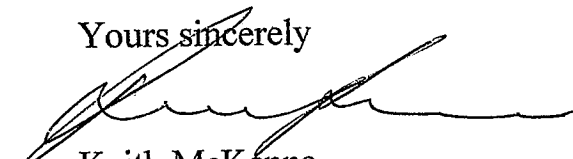
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23<sup>rd</sup>.April 2008

Quarantine and Biosecurity Review  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

I am making this submission because of my concern that the present 'Appropriate Level of Protection' of 'very low risk' is unsatisfactory. The proper level of protection should be zero risk. The previous Government used the argument against a zero risk policy as not being in accord with World Trade Organization principles. Yet the W.T.O. clearly defines quarantine regulations as separate from trade issues. The proposition that other countries will not buy our produce if we do not buy their contaminated goods and that we have to lower our standards to protect our agricultural products is plain ridiculous. Countries buy our foodstuffs because of quality and availability.

The current exposure of the inadequacies of our quarantine services regarding food imports from Asia, coupled with the Equine Influenza scandal, makes every Australian anxious about the veracity and intent of the current regime, While our present Government has promised that the Health program will concentrate on prevention; it could be a good starting point to ensure that our imports of foodstuffs are properly screened and free from harmful chemicals and disease.

Yours sincerely



Keith McKenna