

28 April 2008

Quarantine and Bio Security Review Secretariat
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
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Dear Chairman

Further to the Issues Paper to the *Quarantine and Bio Security Review (the Review)* of 14 March 2008 the Customs Brokers & Forwarders Council of Australia Inc. (CBFCA) notes the Terms of Reference of the *Review* and as to identified issues within the *Review*, and has provided commentary as seen appropriate.

The CBFCA as the peak industry association representing service providers in international trade logistics and supply chain management (in particular those who interface with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)) and, has since 1987, provided comment in relation to Government or Parliamentary Inquiries into quarantine arrangements.

The CBFCA is aware that *the Review* Terms of Reference cover many issues which have been referenced in past Inquiries and the CBFCA notes in particular the *Australian Quarantine A Shared Responsibility Report* of October 1996 (the Nairn Review) and the key issues referenced to, and Recommendations from, the Nairn Review remain as valid in 2008 as in 1996.

The CBFCA has taken, in the main, an operational assessment rather than reference the overall strategic direction to the *Review* in that the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ) (of which the CBFCA is a member) has addressed this issue.

The CBFCA through the writers involvement on the Quarantine & Exports Advisory Council (QEAC) is also aware of the contents of the comprehensive QEAC response to the *Review*. This submission travels across wider issues not covered by either the IWGQ or CBFCA responses. The CBFCA endorses both the IWGQ and QEAC submissions.

The CBFCA is also aware of the QEAC review of the AQIS Import Clearance Program and commends to the *Review* its access of this QEAC documentation.

The CBFCA looks forward to working with the *Review* in addressing the Terms of Reference and seeking AQIS process improvement for all stakeholders in the quarantine and bio security process.

Kind regards



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Executive Director

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