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9 May 2008

Quarantine and Biosecurity Review Secretariat
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Secretariat

Re: Quarantine and Biosecurity Review

Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review. Maintaining Australia's favourable animal health status and protecting Australia from exotic pests and diseases through its quarantine and biosecurity measures is crucial to Australian sheepmeat and lamb producers.

SCA is the Peak Industry Council representing the policy interests of Australia's lamb and sheepmeat producers. SCA is a commodity member of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and has contributed to the development of the NFF Quarantine and Biosecurity Review Submission.

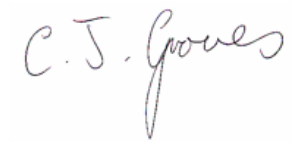
SCA strongly supports the NFF Submission for the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review and the key principles encapsulated in the submission including:

- the need to change the AQIS operational culture;
- to ensure a seamless continuum of biosecurity and quarantine (pre-border IRA assessment, at the border, and post-border);
- that adequate resources and funding are available for effective biosecurity and quarantine;
- the need for continued market access without compromising biosecurity;
- ensuring that quarantine risks are sufficiently measured;
- that climate change implications are addressed;
- that quarantine processes operate within a regulatory framework of effective governance and independence;
- the need for an independent appeals process for IRAs;
- the need for strong and effective stakeholder consultation;
- regular independent reviews of the quarantine system; and
- ensuring satisfactory Government funding for the Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

As outlined in the NFF submission, Australia's favourable pest and disease status is a vital foundation for the farming sector - in both production and marketing terms - and must be maintained through a highly-effective and efficient, science-based biosecurity and quarantine regime.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to this review, and please do not hesitate to contact Sheepmeat Council (02 6273 3088) should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.J. Groves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'G' at the end.

Chris Groves
PRESIDENT