



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION



Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

RE: Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport inquiry into Biosecurity and Quarantine Arrangements.

The Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association is the peak lobby group representing Tasmanian farmers. This is our submission to the inquiry.

Tasmania, as an island state, relies on its biosecurity system as it is at the very core of the Tasmanian brand as our natural environmental values and quality produce relies upon our relative freedom from pests, diseases and weeds. Our biosecurity status allows Tasmania to trade in markets closed to others and sets up apart as a natural and quality producer and destination.

The TFGA would like to support Plant Health Australia's (PHA) submission to the inquiry and reinforce to the inquiry Committee PHA's two principal objectives, which are:

- A renewed commitment from the Australian Government to the framework of shared responsibility for biosecurity, in particular the commitment to honour its obligations as partner to plant industries and state and territory governments; and
- Implementation of the National Plant Biosecurity Strategy through future Australian Government legislative, policy and investment decisions.

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, science-based biosecurity and quarantine regime.

We would be happy to discuss this further with the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jan Davis
Chief Executive Officer
6th July 2011