

Queensland Aquaculture Industries Federation (Inc)

World Best Aquaculture

Aquaculture Association of Queensland, Australian Barramundi Farmers Association, Australian Prawn Farmers' Association, Australian Tropical Abalone, Coral Coast Mariculture, Queensland Crayfish Farmers Association, Queensland Oyster Growers Association, Queensland Pearl Industry, Queensland Sea Scallops Pty Ltd; South Pacific Seaweeds, Watermark Seafoods

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
By email legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

20/04/2010

Dear Sir

The Queensland Aquaculture Industries Federation (Inc) represents all sectors and most of the producers in the \$100 million aquaculture industry in this State.

We are aware from a tape and transcript of a meeting held with Cape York Aboriginal communities that reasons were provided why some indigenous activities would not be allowed on the "Wild Rivers". One of the reasons stated was that barramundi production uses added hormones which would pollute traditional down river sources of fish and presumably degrade the environment.

The comment of the public servant is absolutely incorrect. No hormones are used in barramundi feeds. No hormones are added by farmers to fish ponds.

The barramundi industry undertakes annual testing of fish for residues. This has been done by the independent SARDI and now NRS under the auspices of the AQIS protocols for access to the EU – the toughest standards available. Since testing began, there has been absolutely nothing – a zero in fact- for such residues. Australian farmed barramundi is clean.

Also, aquaculture in Queensland is licensed and operates to standards set by the Queensland Environment Protection Agency. All discharges are rigorously monitored. In fact, farms can be required to discharge water to the environment cleaner than it is taken into the farm from the river systems. A fresh water system producing barramundi may not even need to discharge water at all.

The view, coming from a senior public servant was extremely damaging. Our industry puts enormous effort into demonstrating the quality, safety and environmental credentials of our product. These credentials are hard won, and are one of the few ways of differentiating Australian product from SE Asia product that is dramatically cheaper because it does not meet the same environmental standards. A few comments of misinformation such as these are capable of destroying much of the credentials we have worked to achieve.

As an additional comment, the industry believes it would be a great pity if a sustainable economic activity were to be denied to the traditional owners of the land on such fallacious grounds.

Yours faithfully

Graham Dalton
Executive officer

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