

Australian Chicken Growers' Council Limited

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President: Mike Shaw
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Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
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Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Customs Amendment (Anti-dumping Measures) Bill (No. 1) 2015 and Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Amendment Bill 2015

The Australian Chicken Growers Council (ACGC) represents the interests of contract meat chicken growers nationally through six state organisations.

These are:

- New South Wales Farmers Association Poultry Meat Group
- Queensland Chicken Growers Association,
- South Australian Meat Chicken Farmers
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association Chicken Meat Group,
- Victorian Farmers Federation Chicken Meat Group,
- West Australian Broiler Growers Association.

ACGC is also a member of the Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF) and would support any comments made by them on this matter.

While there is only a limited amount of poultry meat products imported into Australia under the current Import Risk Assessment protocols for cooked and raw chicken meat, there is the potential for this to change over time with improvements in technology. If there were an increase in imports then it is likely that some or all of these may well be heavily subsidised. Heavy subsidisation would mean

that it would be very important that effective anti-dumping rules are put in place to minimise the impact on growers and processors in the industry. The Australian poultry meat industry has seen the damage done to the industry in other countries around the world where dumping has occurred, and would encourage every measure to prevent such impacts here.

The ACGC believes that the current proposed amendments will contribute to a more transparent and effective process to deal with applications relating to anti-dumping and hopefully ensure compliance with our international trade obligations under the WTO.

It is noted that there is provision that imposes a fee on making an application in order to discourage “frivolous” applications. While this could also limit legitimate applications from small and medium sized businesses, this should be limited by the provision for reviewing the quantum of the fee which is extremely important if the process is to be fair for all.

As has been recognised in the amendments and Minister Macfarlane’s second reading speech, it is important that applications are investigated in the shortest time frame possible to minimise the impact on businesses suffering financial damage from competition with dumped product.

The move to having a more flexible approach to dealing with and obtaining information from a number of stakeholders is also seen as a positive in establishing a case to support or deny an application, as hopefully it will lead to a wider range of evidence to be collected.

The undersigned would be more than happy to provide the committee with further comment.

Gary Sansom
Executive Officer
Australian Chicken Growers Council Ltd