

8 March 2012

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Legislation Committee Secretary
economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

RE: Minerals Resource Rent Tax Bill 2011 and related bills questions on notice

Below are the questions taken on notice by Mr John McKillop during the above hearing:

Farming operation structure

Senator CORMANN: Let us look at the other side of the equation—the other promises the government has attached to the mining tax, one of them being tax cuts for small business, so-called. Would most farming operations be incorporated businesses? How many of them would still operate as sole traders or partnerships or in other forms?

Mr McKillop: The majority—and I say that fairly loosely—operate as either partnerships or sole traders. A significant number operate as companies, and a large number operate under trusts.

Senator CORMANN: Are you able to put figures on that for us, maybe on notice?

Mr McKillop: I can take that on notice.

The NFF do not keep statistics on the structure of farming operations. We have contacted the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) and have been advised that the data requested has not been collated recently. The NFF would suggest that if the Committee requires this data they requisition these statistics from ABARES.

Yours sincerely

John McKillop
Chair, NFF Economics Committee