

To the Committee Secretary of the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,

Burnham Grazing is a small Agricultural business in Central Queensland, family owned and operated. We manage our country regeneratively and organically, providing certified organic USDA and Australian organic, grassfed, biodynamic and regeneratively raised beef to local and export markets as well as sequestering carbon and improving ecology on the land under our influence.

Our business model is dependent on the premium that the afore mentioned certifications allow however the certifications themselves are based on international models, leading to a reliance on externally regulated international expectations and potential cultural communication issues which filter down to us at a grass roots level.

We understand that it was this external pressure which prompted our original certifying body, AusQual, to withdraw from offering certifications within 8 weeks of our 2023 audit, leaving our business in extreme uncertainty - we know of at least 2 local Certified Organic businesses who have also withdrawn certification due to these issues and the ensuing paperwork and timing which made it too hard to continue in the certification.

This experience leads us to conclude that our clean, green Australian Organic agriculture must move forward with its own identity and standards, which can be explained, proven and not just accepted but sought in both domestic and export markets.

We believe in Australian Organic Beef, in our unique Australian Agricultural industry and the development of strong, united Australian Organic standards which have the potential to allow us to grow under our own Australian Organic identity in markets, both nationally and internationally.

Please support this bill for the future of a strong, independent Australian Organic industry.

Regards,

Dan and Emma-Jane Burnham

