

15 February 2012

Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee Secretary
ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

**RE: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment
(Emergency Listings) Bill 2011 questions on notice**

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

Agricultural referrals under the EPBC Act

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) does not maintain data on how many agricultural related activities on average are referred under the EPBC Act; however the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities may be able to provide these statistics to the Committee.

Approvals, knock-backs and prosecutions

The NFF does not maintain data on approvals, knock-backs and prosecutions under state and federal environmental laws for farmers; however the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities may be able to provide these statistics to the Committee.

Indirect costs to farmers

The NFF can suggest the following two publications that can provide information on indirect costs to farmers:

2008, Manners, F.P. & Carrick, A.F, *An analysis of the impacts of statutory conservation covenants on land values in Sout East Queensland*, Case study report, SEQ Catchment, Brisbane

2004, Productivity Commission, *Impacts of Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Regulations report*, Issue 29, Melbourne

Corporate farming figures

The NFF notes that the agribusiness' listed by the Chair, Senator Cameron are part of the agricultural supply chain and do not actually own and operate properties

themselves. For example, Incitec Pivot sells fertiliser while Murray Goulburn Cooperative sells supplies to dairy farmers as well as purchasing milk.

The NFF would also like to note that many 'corporate' farms are also family farms. The NFF can suggest the following two publications that can provide the Committee with further information on corporate farming figures:

Australian Bureau of Statics, *Agricultural Land and Water Ownership*, Catalogue number: 7127.0

Dr Matthew Tonts & Prof. Alan Black 2002, *Impact of changing farm business structures on rural communities*, Project EW-10A, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Canberra,

Yours sincerely

GERALD LEACH
Chair, NFF Sustainability Committee