



ABN 131 122 435

INC9889348

Mr Tas Larnach
Committee Secretary
Rural and Regional Affairs
& Transport Legislation Committee
Australian Senate
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House
ACT, 2600

Dear Tas,

Re: Biosecurity Levy Submission: Agriculture (Biosecurity Protection) Levies Bill 2024 and related bills

Following recent discussions with the membership of the Australian Duck Meat Association and other Poultry Industry Sectors, we believe that more detail and description of the collection methodology and quantum of the “Biosecurity Levy” is required. The Duck sector cannot possibly agree to a financial contribution until we have a more transparent understanding of the mechanism, equity and quantum for budgeting.

We have been briefed on two potential mechanisms; a percentage of existing levies or alternatively a proportion of GVP as the mechanism. At this stage, we have been looking forward to dialogue with the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel (Recently Established) or a session with Industry Forum of Animal Health Australia, that may provide further insights into the mechanism of the levy collection and the proportionate share for the Poultry Industry and the Duck Meat sector.

You may be aware that the Australian Duck Meat Association has been progressively developing a “Voluntary Reserve Fund” for use in an Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement involving the Poultry Industries. This fund has involved an annual contribution to an AHA

account with an objective of achieving a balance of 1% of GVP or approximately \$1.3 m. This funding stream has been entirely voluntary and has not involved a statutory levy process.

If the biosecurity levy is to be introduced, we would like to complete the contributions to the Voluntary Reserve Fund, and then consider a proportion contribution to this additional levy that takes account of the small GVP for the sector and the quantum that is being voluntarily contributed to the industry fund for both industry sustainability and public benefit.

We would be pleased to provide further information that you may require during your deliberations and we look forward to additional briefings from the Sustainable Biosecurity Funding Advisory Panel on these important matters.

Yours faithfully

Secretary/CEO

Dr Greg Parkinson
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