

To: Senate Inquiry into Beef Imports

To all Senator's who should be concerned with the prospect of sub-standard beef product being imported into Australia, I wish to let you know that I am very concerned.

Why do the Australian Government insist on putting the Australian people last in their consideration on this issue?

Why would we risk permanent destruction of our clean, green image regarding the beef industry in Australia?

Why would we risk permanent injury to even one Australian citizen?

Our free trade agreement with all countries can be criticized when a product can be repackaged in the FTA country and shipped to Australia as a product of that country, when clearly it is not. My understanding is that this is what is happening via New Zealand with all types of product. How can Australian's be guaranteed that this will not happen with beef?

I know one way. DO NOT IMPORT BEEF !!!!! Why should we ? Australia is the pre-eminent beef producer in the world. Why risk such a position because of the free-trade zealots?

As a second to this issue, when are the Government going to get the labelling laws tightened up to reflect the fact that Australians want to know where their food is coming from? Product made in Australia labelled made in Australia. Product that is made overseas and packaged in Australia clearly labelled as Packaged in Australia. Not made in Australia.

In my opinion, anyone who thinks that free trade agreements create a level playing field is living in a dream world, but like the majority of Australians I have no faith that Australian politicians have got what's best for Australia as their priority.

With Sincerity

Andre Giles