



BRAHMAN HOUSE

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To whom it may concern,

RE : SENATE REVIEW OF EMDG AMENDMENT BILL 2020

The Australian Brahman Breeders Association (ABBA) has been a cornerstone breed in the Australian beef cattle industry since 1933. With a count of some 4M head representing some 15% of the National herd of beef cattle in Australia, our breed has possibly the biggest impact of any breed on the beef industry in Australia. The traits of the Brahman breed are highly suited to the northern region of Australia with the ability to tolerate extreme heat and on harsh vegetation while achieving high ratios of body weight gain, it is a superior breed. The particular additional attribute is the innate resistance to tick infestation which enables producers to adopt a 'Clean and Green' chemical free operation – that is something that stands out in the eyes of overseas customers.

Since the 1970's ABBA has been continuously representing its members interests in overseas markets. It is well known that Australian Brahman cattle feature for the supply of both live and processed beef exports to countries around the world. The breeds genetics continue to be refined under the BreedPlan initiatives and through generations of Australian cattle producer's knowledge. Brahman are sought after by many cattle breeding countries.

Accordingly, the EMDG program has assisted ABBA over many years as an Approved Body to organise delegations of our Australian members in overseas marketing trade missions. The EMDG program has made this possible which we would have struggled to underwrite without the support of this rebate.

In the context of the EMDG program we have benefited from in the past, the Bill under review to amend the EMDG legislation does cause us considerable concern. We note the recommendations of the recent EMDG Review Report suggested additional funding for representative industry bodies (presumably like ABBA) but we are concerned on where that funding is to be directed.



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Reference is made to industry bodies conducting training and education for their members. We certainly do provide constant updates for members on industry/Government compliance issues associated with animal husbandry, breeding developments and technology and so on, but as for training and education on operational issues, that is not our mandate. We are an umbrella organisation and within that charter is a role to market and promote our member's interests in overseas markets.

The current EMDG program has supported our initiatives in the past and what we see in the pre-planning of export initiatives and the limitation of funding in categories ranging from New Exporters, Growth Exporter and New Markets Exporters is a highly regulated, rigid regime and another layer of unnecessary red tape.

We note the Bill has been presented with two options for consideration in relation to the Amendments.

Option A – to adopt the findings of the EMDG Review and amend the EMDG Act accordingly, or

Option B – to leave the EMDG legislation as is.

At a time when there is great uncertainty on how COVID 19 will ultimately impact on the export market for the Australian beef producers ABBA is of the view that the current EMDG program under the existing legislation is the best option to adopt.

Regards,

Anastasia Fanning
Association Manager
Australian Brahman Breeders Association