

13th April 2012



Senator The Hon Richard Colbeck
Chair
Senate Select Committee on Australia's
Food Processing Sector
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Members of the Select Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the President and Executive Committee of Primary Employers Tasmania (PET) to advise of our unequivocal support for the proposal presented to the Select Committee by Petuna Seafoods in respect of the absence of a dedicated international shipping service to and from Tasmania.

Primary Employers Tasmania (PET) is the only primary industry employers organisation registered under the Federal Fair Work Act 2009 charged with representing the interests of employers in Tasmania's agricultural, horticultural and viticultural industries at all levels of government and industry.

The principal function of PET is to ensure that the policies and concerns of rural industry employers are recognised by industry, the wider community and at all levels of government and are given a high degree of consideration at all levels of the decision making process.

I attended the Select Committee hearing in Devonport, Tasmania on Thursday 12th April 2012 as part of the Tasmanian Agricultural Productivity Group.

Following the TAPG presentation I remained and listened to the presentation of Mr Tim Hess, General Manager, Petuna Seafoods.

Mr Hess spoke about the hardship being experienced by Tasmanian businesses that supply international markets, now that the direct international shipping service out of Tasmania has been withdrawn.

He raised his concern drawn from extensive experience that Tasmania will find it difficult to attract an international shipping service because it will be difficult for one shipper to provide a sufficient base load to warrant a regular international service.

Representing the Workplace Relations interests of:



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He then proposed two solutions:

The first being the Tasmanian and Australian Governments underwrite the base load for an international shipping service direct from Tasmania.

The second proposal was to the effect that should the first proposal not be adopted the Federal Government should immediately move to extend the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme to provide for product/produce destined for international markets being trans-shipped through a mainland Australia port.

Yours sincerely

Keith Rice
Chief Executive