

16 February 2011

The Economics Committee

The Australian Senate

Parliament House

Canberra ACT

Re : Submission Concerning Foreign Acquisition Of Farmland – The Foreign Acquisition Amendment (Agricultural Land) Bill 2010.

It is essential that any acquisition of Australian agricultural land greater than 5 hectares be subject to the Treasurer, where it would need to pass a national interest.

Today the world faces a world food crisis and it is very important that Australia secures its food supply. Countries like Qatar are securing its food supply by buying Australian farms. Whilst this is very good for Qatar and other countries who purchase large Australian farms, it means that Australia has less agricultural production for its own people. If the present trend continues in Australia then Australia's food supply and exports will be placed at risk. I wonder, would this be allowed in the USA, China, Japan or Europe?

I have enclosed some print outs from Australian newspapers in regards to farm purchases by Hassad Australia, the local company formed to acquire the future food supply for the Gulf State of Qatar.

Whilst overseas companies have bought Australian farms in the past, if the present trend continues then most Australian farms will be run by companies owned by overseas countries or banks like Macquarie Bank.

Patrick F Bourke

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FOOD CRISIS AND THE GLOBAL LAND GRAB

GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS ARE BUYING UP FARMLAND IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD - OR SIMPLY TO MAKE MONEY



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Hassad Food launches livestock project in Australia

Published: 22 Dec 2009

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Qatar News Agency | December 22, 2009



Nasser Mohamed Al Hajri, Chairman of Hassad Food.
(Photo: Qatar Today)

Doha, December 22 (QNA) - Hassad Food has launched a large project for producing livestock in Australia with a capacity of up to 70,000 Syrian head of sheep in its first year, and then up to 150,000 head of sheep in three years, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hassad Food Nasser Mohammed Fhaid Al Hajri has said.

In an interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), Al Hajri said the new company, named Hassad Australia, was established in Sydney. The company will purchase farmlands for the production of grains especially wheat, with a capacity of up to 50 tons per year, an amount representing 40 percent of the volume of domestic consumption in Qatar, pointing out that grain production will start next year.

Al Hajri noted that the new company aims at producing livestock for the needs of the Qatari market and the region in general, pointing out that this project is wholly owned by Qatar's Hassad and produce a special quality of Australian sheep to finance the Qatari market with 35 percent of annual consumption.

The projects of Hassad go beyond those points to the development of the work of Qatari farmers and the development of the domestic product and make the goods available in the domestic market, Al Hajri said.

He added that the company will have a supervising and marketing role to ensure the continuation and profitability of the product.

Al Hajri concluded that Hassad will call for a meeting to be attended by all Qatari producing farmers, government bodies and relevant ministries, in particular the Ministry of Environment and Natural Reserves, the Development Bank and other relevant authorities to announce a project in this regard in order to finance its production cycle. (QNA)

Source: [Qatar News Agency](#)

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Qatar agribusiness buys first Australian holding

08 Mar, 2010 10:54 AM

Qatar-based Hassad Food has initiated its investment in Australian agriculture with the purchase of the prized Kaladbro Estate in far western Victoria.

According to [The Australian Financial Review](#), Hassad is backed by the Qatar Investment Authority, and chairman and managing director, Nasser Mohammed Fhaid Al Hajri said the group's investment in Australia will be for the long term as it seeks to produce livestock for overseas markets.

Kaladbro Estate is a 2630-hectare property 25 kilometres east of Mt Gambier – South Australia's largest regional livestock centre – and is close to Portland, making it an ideal base for Hassad to ship livestock to the Middle East.

Kaladbro, which has been in the Mackinnon family for 150 years, is worth about \$25 million. The property has 7400 megalitres of water licences, 440 hectares of irrigation area as well as grain storage facilities.

During 18 months of drought late last decade, the property still managed to run about 60,000 sheep. Mr Al Hajri believes the demand for sheep meat will replace and replicate Australia's wool boom story.

The Australian Financial Review

Source: <http://www.afr.com>



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Hassad buys Clover Downs

19 Apr, 2010 09:38 AM

THE Hassad Food Group, backed by the Qatar Investment Authority, has purchased Clyde Agriculture's Clover Downs sheep station in Queensland for \$18.5 million.

[The Australian Financial Review](#) reports that the deal adds to Hassad Food's \$25 million Kaldbro Station acquisition in Victoria earlier this year and follows a string of high-profile farm purchases, signifying Australian agricultural properties are in demand.

The 125,300-hectare property south-east of Cunnamulla was sold separately from the Clyde Agriculture business, which is also for sale for about \$300 million.

"We are pleased to have finalised the contract on Clover Downs as it will now allow us to proceed with the sale of Clyde Agriculture as a going concern." Clyde Agriculture managing director John McKillop said. "While Clover Downs is a fantastic property, we did not think it was a logical part of the overall portfolio."

Clover Downs was sold bare of sheep and infrastructure but has the capacity to run the equivalent of about 64,000 sheep.

The Australian Financial Review

Source: <http://www.afr.com>



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An absolute bloody disgrace and another kick in the guts of the Aussie farmer!

Posted by **Tigerdicky**, 19/04/2010 11:35:16 AM, on Queensland Country Life

Would Mr McKillop please explain why the best and biggest aggregation in the famous Cunnamulla "salad bowl", fully stocked with 30,000 breeding ewes and just across the border from Clyde's Bourke interests, "does not logically fit" with Clyde's remaining portfolio.

Posted by **Dick**, 20/04/2010 11:19:57 AM, on Queensland Country Life

Hassad swoops on NSW Central West

PETER AUSTIN

18 Nov, 2010 04:00 AM

HASSAD Australia, the local company formed to set up future food supply lines for the Gulf State of Qatar, has just completed a major buy-up of prime Central West grazing land.

Sales have been confirmed of five neighbouring properties in the Canowindra district totalling some 6800 hectares including the well-known 3662ha "Canomodine".

Other properties involved in the mega-deal, all owned by different vendors, are "Elonera" (536ha), "Gindurra" (736ha), "The Pines" (1530ha) and "Woodlands" (410ha).

Together, the properties have an estimated carrying capacity of more than 70,000 dry sheep equivalents, and crop harvest potential this year of 10,000 tonnes of wheat and 1000 tonnes of canola.

No prices have been disclosed, although ruling values would suggest a likely price tag for land alone in the mid to high \$20 millions, plus any allowances made for standing crops.

News of the sale, which has now settled, was confirmed this week by Elders Cowra's rural property manager, Ian Robertson, who put the package together and headed the negotiations.

Representing the buyer was Steve Francis of Bydand Agricultural Management Services in Brisbane, which has secured a three-year agreement with Hassad to help establish its Australian pastoral operation.

Hassad Australia is a subsidiary of Hassad Food, an arm of the government-backed Qatar Investment Authority, which was set up to secure future food supplies for the oil-rich Gulf State.

Its aim in Australia is to amass sufficient farmland to ensure a supply of 150,000 lambs and 50,000 tonnes of grain within three years.

Hassad Food made its Australian debut late last year with the purchase of the 2630ha "Kaladbro Estate" in western Victoria for reportedly about \$25m.

That was followed earlier this year by the purchase of the 125,300ha "Clover Downs" at Cunnamulla, Queensland, from Clyde Agriculture for \$18.5m, after it failed to sell at auction in 2008.

Since then, unconfirmed reports cite Hassad as the buyer-in-progress of the Muir family's 8525ha Raby Station at Warren (breeding cattle from which are booked for up-coming sales in Dubbo) and a "likely suspect" for another substantial Macquarie Valley holding now in play.

Even without the latter unconfirmed acquisitions, Hassad's known purchases to date take the company's combined Australian landholdings to more than 13,000 square kilometres, or more than the entire 11,000 sq km area of Qatar.

The Land

Source: <http://www.theland.com.au>



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