



3rd September 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom it may Concern

The PGA is a non-profit industry organisation in Western Australia, which has and continues to represent primary producers of wool, grain and meat & livestock since 1907. The PGA continues to lobby for free market access and deregulation for the benefit of those in the business of primary production.

Whilst acknowledging that AQIS plays an important role to the industry the PGA asks that the Inquiry notes the following requests of this organisation in regards to the AQIS reform package:

- The PGA supports a minimum \$40 million Government reform package designed to cut red tape at AQIS.
- The PGA requests that the activities and expenditure of the package are clearly defined before any funds are expended.
- The PGA requests that if staff redundancies were to be considered as part of the review that these skills and expertise be allocated to other departments where applicable. The PGA does not support the use of the reform package for the payment of redundancies of AQIS staff.
- The PGA would consider supporting the original 40% subsidisation of AQIS services by the Federal government if the reform package did not meet these criteria.

It is of course the intention that the reforms will deliver net savings to the industry equal compared to the level of fee rebate lifted on 1st July 2009. It is our duty to our members to ensure that we seek accountability from the Federal Government that the reform package can be rolled out within the framework outlined above.

Yours Sincerely



Rob Gillam
President
Pastoralists and Graziers Association