



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

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Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
Department of the House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
R1.108 Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Bateman

Inquiry into the barriers to superannuation fund investment in Australia's agricultural sector

I refer to your invitation on 24 May 2018 to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) to make a submission to the above inquiry.

ASIC's submission will address the inquiry's first term of reference in relation to whether there are any regulatory requirements imposed on superannuation funds by ASIC, which are acting as barriers to superannuation fund investment in Australian agriculture.

In relation to superannuation funds, ASIC is responsible for trustees' conduct and disclosure in engaging with members. ASIC's aim is to promote the trust and confidence of consumers by ensuring that they receive proper disclosure and useful information about superannuation products, are dealt with fairly including by having access to proper complaints-handling processes.

ASIC does not impose regulatory requirements on superannuation funds in relation to any particular investments, including in relation to agriculture.

The laws ASIC administers are concerned with the investment activities of superannuation funds to the extent that these activities relate to the funds' conduct and disclosure with respect to fund members.

ASIC is responsible for administering requirements for the disclosure of information by superannuation funds to their members about the funds' investments, for example in product disclosure statements and in periodic reporting. These disclosure requirements apply to all investments, including agricultural investments. While the form of these requirements may vary with whether the investment is in the form of an investment option choice offered to members, or included more generally in a broad-based investment strategy, ASIC does not consider that these requirements are acting as barriers to investment in agriculture.

ASIC also does not consider that requirements with respect to conduct which apply to the trustee of superannuation funds, such as not engaging in misleading and deceptive conduct, are acting as barriers to investing in agriculture.

Contact

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee. If you have any queries, please contact

Yours sincerely

Senior Executive Leader
Investment Managers & Superannuation