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Australian Pork Limited
ABN: 83 092 783 278

PO Box 4746
KINGSTON ACT 2604

P 02 6285 2200

F 02 6285 2288

www.australianpork.com.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
via email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

**Inquiry into the Rural Research and Development Legislation Amendment Bill
2014**

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief submission to the above Inquiry. APL notes and supports separate submissions made by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations (CRRDC).

While APL is not directly affected by this Bill, APL has concerns with the future implications should this Bill be passed by the Parliament, i.e. government cost shifting with little or no consultation with industry. In particular, those Statutory Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) directly impacted by this Bill were not consulted about the Government's decision in the 2014 Federal Budget. Moreover, this approach may be direct opposition to the expectations of the Statutory RDC levy payers – an issue that is also the focus of another Senate Inquiry.

Moreover, APL is concerned that this approach may be embodied for Industry Owned Corporations (IOCs) when negotiating the next Statutory Funding Agreement with the Department of Agriculture. APL would strongly reject such an approach.

As a principle, the Bill should include appropriate mechanisms for consultation, including where RDCs do not support the Government's membership of international organisations as it may not be in the interest of and benefit to the RDC levy payers.

Consequently, APL supports the CRRDC recommendation to amend the Bill to limit the potential for future scope creep, and to ensure full consultation with the affected industries and relevant RDCs.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Kerr
General Manager, Policy