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Third party certification of food

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

To : *Senate Economics References Committee*

Dear Committee Members:

I write this Submission with the reference to Halal Certification applied to Domestic consumer goods .

I believe individuals have the right to practice all legal value systems excepted by civilised society .

I believe all people of Australia have a right, and the Government of Australia has a duty of care to make sure all Australian consumers are able to purchase any and all product knowing that all reasonable attempt has been made to insure the consumer is able to make an informed decision on the make up of the individual product and what the product sale supports , funds or represents .

It is my view the Halal value of a product is okay for members of the Islamic faith . The Qur'an clearly identifies Halal as meaning permissible . The Qur'an, excepted by followers of Islam is deemed as the literal word of Allah . Allah has passed on to the Messenger Muhammad through the Qur'an, who said “ **Today the good things are permitted to you, and the food of those who were given the Book (being the Jews and Christians) is permitted to you , and permitted to them is your food .**” Allah also stated “ **eat what they seize for you , and mention Gods Name over it**”. Muslims need only to bless there consumer goods at the time of consumption and the goods are truly Halal (*permissible*).

There is no reference in any English translated Qur'an or Koran from Allah mentioning any order to maintain a Halal Certification scheme .

The Halal Certification scheme in my view does not represent the word of the Qur'an and any true Muslim will tell you it is blasphemy to make profit from the word of the Qur'an .

The value system I follow is a Christian one . My belief is my own private position and it is not for me to demand another to conform with my position or for me to submit to the demands of any value system that goes against my interest's or security.

It is my view the Halal Certification scheme is a tool designed by those wishing to create funds to contribute to a value system I hold in contempt . I do not wish to support such a value system especially when I go to purchase consumer goods . It is my belief that a number if not all of the Halal Certification companies approved to operate in the domestic market have a direct affiliation with Islamic mosques and the promotion of the goal of Islam as recorded within the Qur'an . The Qur'an tells its followers to migrate and spread Islam throughout the world . It states Islam is the

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one true religion and directs Islam's followers to oppose all those who attempt to stop the expansion of Islam . Islam is a family who believe the Earth belongs to them as the superior people and its members are only allowed to submit to Allah and Allah's law the Sharia to find true peace. Muslim's may adhere to the laws of there host nation's so long as those laws do not conflict with Allah's laws.

My research from the referenced material highlights Allah as the High God who's history dates back to the Arab pagans who worshipped many gods with the Moon god having the highest rank . Allah is the Moon god . This god in my view is a false idol and an a front to my value system to worship or consume goods that has been blessed on behalf of this god, a false idol. The Halal certification is seen as a written contract for Muslim's to confirm that consumer goods are deemed Halal (permissible) as per the Qur'an and that items such as meat have been sacrificed and blessed in accordance with Islamic values. Consuming these goods under the certification in my view is a confirmation of submission to the compliance and acceptance of Sharia Law. In my view it is a breach of the *Australian Constitution* and a failure of the Australian Government to protect **Section 116 . The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion , or for imposing any religious observance!**. See below example of Australian law designed for export market that also impacts on the domestic market.

Issued by Authority of the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Export Control Act 1982

Export Control (Prescribed Goods – General) Amendment Order 2013 (No.)

Amendments of Export Control (Prescribed Goods – General) Order 2005

Item 1 amends subsections 13.05(4) by inserting an extra small size for the official Halal mark with the following dimensions:

Item Section of mark Size of mark (mm) 1 Width of mark 20 2 Height of mark 20 3 Maximum overall height of Arabic text (arched) 2 4 „Halal“ in English text 6.5 5 „Halal“ in Arabic text 2.5 6 „A“ = Establishment Registration Number 3 7 „Australia“ in English text 2.5

The purpose of the amendment is to provide industry with an option to use an extra small size official Halal mark to minimise problems faced by some businesses using the existing size options, including the mark interfering with barcode readability and the placement of information required by importing countries.

The issue of the majority of consumer food products and other goods carrying the Halal Certification leaves me with a limited choice of product denying me an equitable choice . I can no longer walk into a Coles or Woolworth s and by meat exempting pork or most small business butchers either as most meat product is sourced from Halal Certified Arbitrators . As with Coles most meat product is not labelled with the Halal Certification at all . You have to write to the company office to find out whether or not the product carries the certification such as Coles . This leaves me to source an alternative meat source such as killing my own potentially creating health issues or a expensive speciality butcher.

Cadburys chocolates are another example were items are not labelled with the Halal Certification but do carry the Halal Certification and pay the annual fees. Other items Like Mars Bars simply hide there Halal symbol behind the package under the fold were it can not easily be identified .

I also have an issue with the way livestock is slaughtered under the Islamic religious value system , bled out from a cut to the throat while the animal is still alive . Temporary stunning does not kill the animal outright and allows the animal to regain full conscience while bleeding out. This is a practice I do not wish to support by buying Halal certified goods.

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Rodney Morrison

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References:

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The Koran: Translated by Arthur J.Arberry , 1955.

The Qua ran: A new translation by Tarif Khalidi, 2008

Muhammad , A biography of the Prophet : By Karen Armstrong 1991

Islam , An Introduction: printed 1967 ,Ebrahim Ahmed Bawany , Karachi - Pakistan

A Guide to Prayer In Islam by M.A.K 1996 Islamic Publishing House Saudi Arabia.

The Bible , Acts 15:29

Allah – False god and idol

28" For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials: 29that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well.

The Second Epistle of John

Halal Certification with symbol is a Sharia Law compliant act for Islam . Islam , denies Jesus as the Son of God :

If anyone comes to you who does not bring this teaching, do not receive him in your home nor extend him your greeting, 11- for he who bids him welcome makes himself a sharer of those wicked works of his.