

To the select committee, Food Processing Sector

I want to bring to the attention of the select committee the work done in 2000 by Instate Pty Ltd for the then Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (AFFA), some state government departments and other agencies:

‘Exporting Australian Processed Foods Are We Competitive?’

http://www.daff.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/183198/processedfoods.pdf

I think the committee will find that the study I led for Instate provides most of the answers to the questions it is tasked with investigating.

I expect some will also notice that the recommendations in the Instate report were largely ignored. I recall that federal ministers and officials and state governments did not like the findings of the report; most of them had made the assumption that food processing in Australia would flourish and underpin public sector economic development strategies.

By the way, the Instate report is not a summary of the views of the consultants at Instate. It is a summary of the views of leaders of the Australian food processing industry; we interviewed more than one hundred of them!

Ross Maddock

2 May 2012