



WHEAT EXPORT AUTHORITY

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Reference: 01-0103-002

The Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

I refer to your letter to Mr Glen Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of the Wheat Export Authority (WEA) dated 13 February 2003 seeking submissions on the Draft Financial Management Framework Legislation Amendment Bill.

The WEA has reviewed the amendments and has no comments on the amendments to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. However, the WEA has one comment on the amendments to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

A new subsection 4A has been added to Section 18 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* in respect of delegation of the Finance Minister's powers or functions under this Section. It appears that the Finance Minister does not have any powers or functions under Section 18 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

In addition the wording of the amendment refers to an official, within the meaning of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* defines 'officers' and I believe that this definition should be used instead of 'officials' for consistency within the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

Yours sincerely

E J Smith
Manager Corporate Support
Wheat Export Authority
24 February 2003