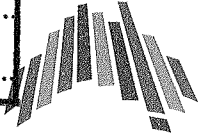


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National Farmers'  
FEDERATION

14 March 2007

The Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Migration  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**NATIONAL FARMERS' FEDERATION'S SUBMISSION – SUPPLEMENTARY  
COMMENTS RELATING OT REGIONAL CONCESSIONS FOR 457 VISA**

Further to the National Farmers' Federation's ("NFF") submission to the Joint Standing Committee Inquiry, the NFF seeks on appearing at the hearing, to further raise the difficulties being experienced in the agriculture industry due to the way in which the definition of 'regional' is determined for the purposes of the regional concessions of the 457 visa.

The definition of regional for the purposes of the regional concessions to the 457 visa is currently based on gazetted postcodes. The difficulty with this approach is that there are some agricultural producers not within those postcodes that are located on the outskirts of cities that cannot utilise the regional concession classification levels but still are unable to attract appropriate labour.

This problem was identified last year for producers in the Yarra Valley in relation to the Working Holiday Maker Visa and was resolved through support of the State Government that enabled new post codes being gazetted. However, we have now identified similar problems in the Sydney basin particularly for the dairy industry.

One approach would be to add in the relevant postcodes but this may cause some concerns for the Government as to the broadening in general terms of the coverage of the regional concessions. An alternative approach is to specify that all agricultural producers regardless of their location are able to utilise the conditions specified in the regional concessions for the 457 visa. This would then resolve the problems currently facing a major dairy producer in the Sydney basin located in Camden but at the same time not require constant variations to the postcode list as each individual problem arises.

The NFF trusts that this correspondence provides the Committee with sufficient notice of this supplementary issue, given the intention to raise it at the hearing.

Yours sincerely



(Mrs) Denita Wawn  
Workplace Relations Manager & Industrial Advocate