

**AUSTRALIAN
BEEF INDUSTRY**

FOUNDATION



INSPIRING BEEF INDUSTRY CAREERS

19th May 2005

The Secretary
Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry Committee
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: Aff.Reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. Inquiry into Rural Skills Training and Research

This submission is provided in response to the recent advertisement regarding the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry New Enquiry into Training Skills Training and Research. We refer to our conversations today with your staff where an extension of time for this submission was granted.

The availability of education services

There would appear to be sufficient actual training available for the industry in terms of secondary school agricultural high schools, TAFE and university places available and quality of education, although only a partial study of such education has been undertaken by ABIF. We propose to establish a web-based beef industry careers database providing access to the range of careers throughout the entire supply chain, training and education available and the financial and work experience assistance available. This is not currently available. As such, young people considering a career in the beef industry have little information and often do not know "how to get into the industry".

Of equal or greater importance is the lack of young people actually entering the beef industry, providing a significant shortage of human resource for the industry and its future. ABIF will be actively seeking to promote the careers website database to encourage entry of young people into the industry.

Skill needs of industry, and extent to which available services meets such needs

Skill needs are evident across all sectors of the industry including seedstock breeding, commercial production, feed lotting, processing and marketing, distribution, retail and food service. Even at the top end of chain at retail there is often a distinct lack of skills and knowledge on quality beef.

Once again there is good training available, but at times difficult to find, and insufficient people undertaking those courses.

Provision of extension/advisory services

Extension services in the seedstock breeding sector have been very limited to date, with the breed societies largely providing these, with assistance from ABRI, the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU) and the Beef Quality CRC.

Government beef officer extension services seem to have decreased alarmingly, with the most experienced joining the breed societies and/or getting to retirement age and leaving the industry.

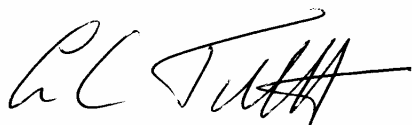
The latest initiative by Arthur Rickards on behalf of ARCBA to increase the seedstock extension services has been accepted by the MLA and will proceed, providing a valuable contribution to the future of such services.

Role of Federal Government in supporting education

Clearly the Federal Government has a vital role in supporting beef industry education. This is an \$8 billion+ industry with very strong future prospects for a whole range of skilled personnel. There is a need to support training in all sectors to ensure a viable future for the industry, in each component of the education system.

The Foundation will be approaching the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for assistance in the establishment and widespread marketing of the Beef Industry Careers Database Website to attract many more young people into careers in the industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Truscott', written in a cursive style.

Graham Truscott
General Manager