



T&R PASTORAL PTY.LTD.

Australian Livestock, Wholesale & Export Meat Traders

ACN 008 178 121

JP

Submission No. 75
Date Received

Administration

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RECEIVED
11 APR 2007

Export Department

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BY: *MLG*

Head Office
Lagoon Road
Murray Bridge
South Australia 525

11 April, 2007

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

Postal Address
GPO Box 496
Murray Bridge
South Australia 525

Re: Letter 22/3/2007

By: Email & Post

Dear: Secretary,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 March 2007. T&R has been using the 457 Visa program for a number of years and was one of the early adopters of the program in the Australian Meat Industry. T&R at all times has maintained it has operated within the terms and conditions of the 457 visa as advised by several federal and state government representatives. It has been alleged that companies within the Australian Meat Industry along with other industries have been not complying with the conditions of the 457 visa. If this is the case I believe this is due to the misunderstanding and the interpretation of parts of the migration regulations along with the poor advice at times given to sponsors. T&R does not condone any intentional sorting of such a valuable program.

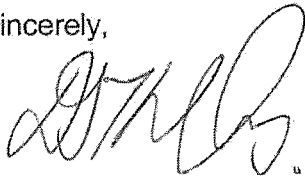
The issues encountered and alleged within the Australian Meat Industry are Industry wide issues.

I note with interest the submission by the Australian Meat Industry Employees Union. T&R among other companies are named as engaging in activities not strictly permissible under the 457-visa program. T&R has advised DIMA of our position re these allegations, which in our view are unsubstantiated, and in some cases libelous. The AMIEU have referred to a report done on T&R Pastoral by DIMA. In the first instance, T&R feels it has been singled out and investigated on what is largely an unsubstantiated industry wide issue. T&R is not at liberty to comment on the contents of the Federal governments investigation, as it has had no access or indication as to the reports findings. T&R can state though, that the independent investigation held by MINTRAC (which the AMIEU have representation on the board of) found that there were no 457-visa holders performing unskilled work.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the T&R group I personally have been involved with the AMIC task force committee that has been negotiating a Labour Agreement since June 2006 with the Federal Government. In my time on the committee many areas were highlighted where there could be improvement in the 457 visa program. This is where AMIC has a role to play. T&R supports, 100% the Australian Meat Industry Councils (AMIC) submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward our views. T&R believes that this is an Industry issue and as such will be represented by Industry (AMIC), which has our total support.

Sincerely,

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

Darren Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
T&R Group.