



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries

Senator the Hon. John Hogg
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Second interim report

Pursuant to Senate Standing Order 38(7), I present to you the second interim report of the Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries on the pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global fertiliser market.

On 14 February 2008, the Senate referred the following matter to the Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries for inquiry and report by 16 June 2008:

The pricing and supply arrangements in the Australian and global chemical and fertiliser markets, the implications for Australian farmers of world chemical and fertiliser supply and pricing arrangements, monopolistic and cartel behaviour and related matters.¹

The Senate subsequently extended the reporting date to 16 October 2008, and this was later extended to 30 June 2009.

The committee tabled an interim report on 2 December 2008.

The committee held seven public hearings: in Canberra on 16 May 2008, Melbourne on 23 July 2008, Canberra on 11 November 2008, 14 November 2008 and 4 February 2009, Perth on 24 March 2009 and Canberra on 7 May 2009. The committee also held a number of *in camera* hearings. The committee received 58 submissions.

The interim report addressed parts of the terms of reference relating to fertiliser supply and pricing arrangements in some detail. The committee took further evidence over the course of the inquiry that elaborated on this evidence.

A number of issues were subsequently raised during the course of the inquiry that required further clarification. To allow these issues to be addressed the committee resolved to hold an additional half day hearing at the end of July 2009.

¹ *Journals of the Senate*, 14 February 2008, p. 145.

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The committee will present its final report on 20 August 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping underline.

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan
Chair

30 June 2009