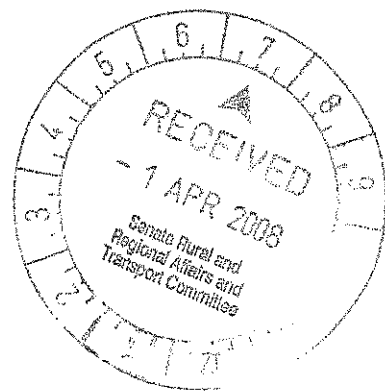


Mr

28/3/08



Dear Committee Secretary,

As a longtime supporter of the Australian Labour Party, I along with anyone involved ~~and~~ a user of phosphate am utterly dismayed at the price rises currently occurring for farming.

I understand the changes in export policy of the USA and also problems with Chinese raw rock, Export price increases and the reducing supply available

Australia has two deposits at Mt Weld and at Wonarah (Minemakers).

I do not believe it will be helpful for Inatec Pivot to gain any influence over these deposits ~~due to~~ reduced competition. In times past opposition companies have waited for Pivot price lists to be released and then strangely, quoted identical prices. This year I priced fertilizer and was able to obtain an Inatec Pivot price, but of the remaining four suppliers (companies) in Portland, three are represented by an agent and two would not quote a price, instead referring me to this agent. i.e. Five companies, but only 2 actual options with apparent copy cat pricing.

With prices for beef stagnant or declining and cost skyrocketing where is the incentive for food production...

Efforts are required to encourage and maintain the independence of Weld and Minemakers ~~and~~ to ensure there is some competitiveness.

Also there is a need for questioning of the fertilizer industry if this country wishes to maintain some semblance of being able to feed itself.

Sincerely,
Wells