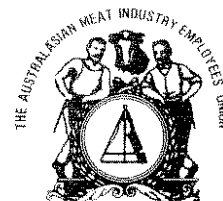


**THE AUSTRALASIAN MEAT INDUSTRY
EMPLOYEES' UNION**
(Federal Council)

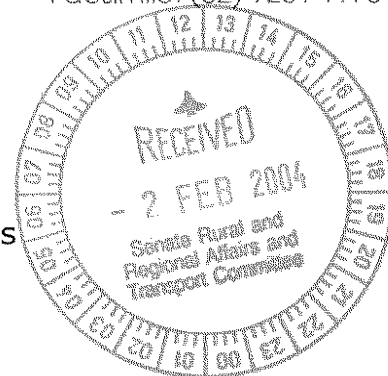


Federal Secretary
TOM HANNAN

377 Sussex Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000 Australia.
Telephone: (02) 9264 2041
Facsimile: (02) 9261 1970

29th January, 2004

Geoffrey Dawson
Acting Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committees
SG 62 Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sir,

Re: Senate Inquiry into Australia's Draft Import Risk Analysis for Pig Meat

The A.M.I.E.U. is most concerned that the Australian pork industry is being disadvantaged by trade agreements in relation to the importation of pork to this country.

This has cost the loss of many jobs in the Australian industry at a time when the industry is struggling due to the effects of drought and an inflated Australian dollar.

I have now been informed that, in the opinion of people I respect in the industry, the major competitive advantage of our clean image in relation to disease compared to our competition is under threat. It is apparent that P.R.R.S. and P.M.W.S. are not a problem in Australia but is prevalent in most other countries in the world including those that export pork products to Australia.

On behalf of meatworkers in this important industry I urge you to re-think the risk management protocols intended for pork imports and for you to heed the advice of the experts in the industry rather than the bureaucratic input which seems to hold sway at the moment.

The bureaucrats with whom I have had discussions in the past, both in relation to pork and chicken, always talk of minimal or negligible risk being okay. I totally disagree and firmly believe that in this case any risk is unsatisfactory.

Thanking you.

TOM HANNAN
Federal Secretary