



DENI PIGGERY

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Dear Sir,

I wish to express my concerns and opinions on four issues affecting the Australian Pork Industry and the effect that Government decisions are impacting on its variability.

As a pig farmer and employer in the South Western Riverina area for the last eleven years and a further fifteen years before in Victoria I believe my commitment to the industry gives me the ability to comment. Politicians have failed to live up to their promises when in 1995 at a protest march in Canberra the then opposition and now the Government many promised to stop imports and have truth in labelling.

The four compelling issues I wish to protest about are:-

Imported Subsidised Pigmeat— I fully support the 'level playing field policy' of the Government but object to the current situation where we allow subsidised product to be imported and transported around the country unprocessed.

Imported Semen— we still do not understand how diseases are transmitted and our understanding of the microbiological world is still unfolding, to compromised this with semen that we already know carries disease is ridiculous. When we can import frozen four cell embryos and decrease the risk yet still take advantage of the world gene pool.

Truth in Labelling— why will the Government still deny the consumer the knowledge of where their food comes from. We frequently talk about our farm husbandry being world class and our food quality second to none yet we continue to keep the buyer in the dark and not promote this on our labels.

Australia's health status—we have seen recently that our herd health is continuing to be one of the best in the world. We import meat from Denmark yet PMWS has spread like wildfire over the last year, our neighbour New Zealand once proudly boasted its high herd health has now seen PMWS spread defying all the control measures possible. And PRRS is prolific in all countries with devastating results.

We should not allow our herd health to be compromised by overseas diseases like PRRS and PMWS and our industry made uncompetitive with subsidised pork products.

You must **immediately STOP** imported meat and then imposed stringent scientifically based procedures to eliminate any disease threat, introduce truth in labelling and negate any subsidies.

Regards,
David

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