



National Farmers'
Federation

1 November 2005

Ms Maureen Weeks
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Weeks

Inquiry into the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) as the peak body representing the interests of Australian farmers thanks the Committee for the opportunity to comment on the National Animal Welfare Bill 2005.

Our submission does not seek to articulate individual Australian agricultural commodity issues, positions or priorities and NFF is aware that several relevant industry representative bodies have or will make separate submissions.

In short, NFF opposes the proposed Bill as it relates to livestock production, transport and export because of the unworkable, oppressive and overly regulatory approach it would impose on Australian farmers who already apply world class animal welfare systems through animal welfare codes and standards at the state and federal level.

The Bill would also impose another layer of animal welfare regulation and significant additional costs on Australian farmers. The Bill also flies in the face of the collaborative Industry/Government inclusive approach contained in the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. This Strategy was developed and supported by all governments and industry stakeholders and endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council in May 2004.

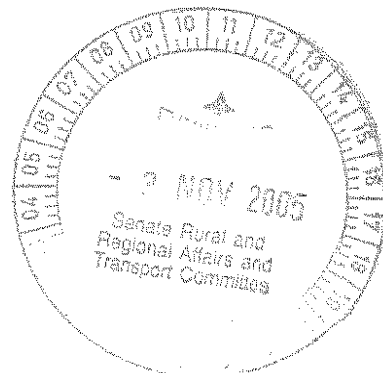
As stated above, the livestock industries in Australia practice the highest standards of animal management in the world. These standards continue to be improved through the investment of millions of dollars in research and development to ensure that the latest and most effective management practices are used to enhance the health and welfare of their animals on which significant numbers of Australian farmers rely for their livelihoods.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Fargher', written over a white background.

BEN FARGHER
Chief Executive Officer



National Farmers' Federation Limited
ABN 77 097 140 166