

28 June 2005

The Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Re: Senate Committee enquiry into Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) administration of the Citrus Canker Outbreak**

The NSW Farmers' Association wishes to express support for the initiation of a Senate enquiry into DAFF's handling of the citrus canker outbreak. In particular the Association welcomes the terms of reference as follows:

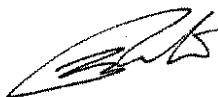
*"The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's administration of the citrus canker invasion with particular reference to:*

1. *AQIS' response to the allegations of illegal importation of plant material;*
2. *The adoption of the quarantine protocols and management of the emergency response;*
3. *Cooperation between the Commonwealth and States, including funding issues;*
4. *The impact of the incursion on the Australian citrus industry;*
5. *Prevention and management of future incursions; and*
6. *Other matters"*

If the outcomes of the Committee's enquiry comprehensively deal with the issues that are outlined in the enquiry's 'Terms of Reference', the industry's concerns should be addressed. If however these issues are not adequately dealt with the Association believes a comprehensive judicial enquiry will be essential and will need to be initiated immediately following the publication of the Senate Committee's Report on this matter.

The Association looks forward to a positive resolution of these important issues.

Yours sincerely



Mal Peters  
President

