



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT**

**REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

30 November 2009

Senator the Hon John Hogg  
President of the Senate  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr President

Pursuant to Senate standing order 38(7), I present to you an interim report of the Senate Standing References Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport on the possible impacts and consequences for public health, trade and agriculture of the Government's decision to relax import restrictions on beef.

The Senate referred this matter to the Committee on 27 October 2009, for report on 30 November 2009. The committee advertised the inquiry and to date has received six submissions.

The Committee considers it is necessary to conduct public hearings before completing the reference, and is holding a public hearing tomorrow with industry representatives in attendance. A further public hearing has been scheduled for 5 February 2010.

To ensure that the issues raised during the inquiry are thoroughly considered and appropriately addressed, the committee intends to present its final report to the Senate on 25 February 2010.

Yours sincerely

Senator Fiona Nash  
Chair