

Re: Imports of beef from countries which have had bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

I consider the proposed change to be a very high risk to the Australian image of clean green beef. We need a larger time gap from the BSE scare backed by a greater weight of scientific research to insulate us from a negative reaction from people who value our clean reputation.

Minimal requirements of at least Australia's internal level of traceability, removal of risk material, in-country inspection, age considerations, Import Risk Analysis to scrutinize new imports for any threat to animal health as well as human safety will not fully protect our industry reputation at this stage.

David Bassed