

Mrs Jillian Moverley
15 February 2010

To the Chairman of the Senate Inquiry into beef import restrictions,

I refer to the Government's decision to relax import restrictions on beef from countries with known Mad Cow Disease (BSE) in their livestock.

I am aghast to think of the possibility of my grandchildren, not to mention any Australian children, eating this meat and contracting variant Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease.

At present our meat is among the best in the world. We should not be risking its BSE - free status.

I am also very worried about possible contamination of the Australian Blood supply. As a Red Cross Blood Donor, I am used to filling out several A4 pages of disclosure before I can donate. Many of these questions relate to living in the UK when BSE infection was possible. I understand these disclosures are legally binding.

What blood will Australians use if we are eating possibly contaminated meat and incubating CJD?

"Appropriate Certification" is mentioned as a protective measure. However, mistakes can happen. This is indeed how the BSE outbreak in the UK occurred in the first place.

Also how can Australian inspectors have the power to override a foreign country's desire not to be fully inspected?

So how can we rely on this "certification".

I hope you will do all in your power to retain the current import restrictions that keep our meat free of potential BSE contamination.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Jillian Moverley