

With regard to the Government's proposal to allow the importation of beef from countries around the world, we are most concerned that this will affect the already stressed domestic cattle and meat market. The potential to also affect the current clean status of meat produced in Australia by exposing our industry to products imported from countries where BSE has been identified is frightening for all livestock producers.

The continual break down of our quarantine procedures and the relaxing of government regulations can only pose a major threat to Australia's livestock industry.

Further to this, why have we as producers been subjected to extremely rigorous standards, only for you to relax these standards to our overseas competition. This, in my opinion, does not make very good business sense. My apologies, you are Politicians, not businessmen and it is not your livelihood that will be affected as a result.

One would have thought that the Agricultural Minister and other policy makers within our Government would see the sense in having higher standards for all imports, than we have for our domestically produced goods.

We urge the Australian Government not to proceed with the importation of any beef meat products.


KJ, D & BW McCoy