

I am responding to the inquiry into beef being allowed into Australia from countries that have BSE.

I disagree with the proposal by the government to allow imported beef into Australia from countries with BSE.

I do not own cattle, however I am a concerned Australian citizen. I feel that Australia is a country where each citizen needs to stand up and support the Australian made and owned businesses, health and the future of the county, and make their views known, because the government has not as far been acting in Australia's best interest. I feel that I need to remind the members of the government that the only reason they are in the job is to **listen, protect and implement Australian citizens beliefs, jobs, health and wellbeing** and their **futures**, they are not there to push their own political agendas.

Their proposition of allowing beef into Australia from these countries is a violation of all of their responsibilities to the Australian citizens and the country.

Australian citizens have been voicing there opinions of this matter through letters, meetings, protests, submissions (like this) etc and still the Government are ignoring the countries voice, **they are not listening**.

Australia has a well earned reputation for having clean, healthy beef, what will happen to this reputation when BSE meat comes into Australia. Australia is the only country that has a mandatory national traceability system, why now have the government decided to allow other countries, who have known diseases, to ignore our regulations thus allowing potential irreversible health risks for Australian citizens. Are the government concerned about our health or not?

The government should also be looking after Australian businesses and jobs, however if this deal goes through the Australian beef producers will once again be undercut by foreign companies who have no health regulations and are government subsidised. Eventually our government will succeed in destroying yet another Australian industry like they did with the pig industry, the timber industry, clothing and footwear industry and now the toilet paper industry etc. (how low can you get). I hope the government is proud of their shocking track record and has enough money to pay all of the unemployed workers with the dole (remember it took \$ ½ billion to control the equine flu – what will it take to control BSE and FMD) plus the money it will take for future health care needs. The ramifications of allowing this imported beef into Australia will be astronomical – can the government afford it.

The potential for these diseases is there, are the government going to ignore this by saying they are one in a million. Any risk is too high, as the longer the importation is happening, then the getting closer we come to the million and sooner or later it will be too late. Any risk is too great.

Please do your job and protect Australia from these ramifications by stopping the importation before it is too late.

Australian was once a self sufficient country until the government opened up free trade and started shutting us down, industry by industry. We can be self-sufficient again, we don't need to make things easier for other countries, make it easier for Australia and we will prosper in all facets.

Kirrily Smith