

February 23, 2010

Submission to Federal Senate Beef Inquiry;

Regional and rural people in general, not just farmers, are deeply concerned over the planned importation of beef from overseas countries, which have previously experienced BSE (mad cow disease).

Everyone I have spoken to, both farmer and no farmer, are disgusted by the secretive way this plan was hatched and due to the fact that some representatives of cattle farmers AND CONSUMERS were aware of this secretive deal, makes everyone extremely upset and deeply suspicious to the point where they have lost faith in everyone, and who can blame them.

Just a warning: To politicians and some of those at the helm of farmer industry bodies I relate the following, which was told to me only a couple of days ago: These people (which is you people) should refrain from DESTROYING THE COUNTRY OUR ANZACS FOUGHT FOR. I was told that the slogans “Kevin, (or Kristina) you have destroyed the country (or State) our ANZACS fought for” is in the pipeline for the next Federal and State Election and also on the run up to next ANZAC day and on Anzac day.

In last Thursdays land (February 18) two CSIRO scientists stated that they are preparing for new emerging diseases. The ALARM BELLS are ringing, DON'T YOU PEOPLE who support the introduction of imported beef into Australia hear them. Please, open your ears.

A former head customs officer stated that: Since AQIS was established, there have been thirty eight new diseases introduced into Australia. The following is a fact of life: We don't have the ability to thoroughly detect, or screen for known diseases, let alone emerging ones.

As Leon Delaney (Radio 2UE) stated “If there's a chance that something can go wrong, it's only a matter of time before it will”. Human error is a fact of life that can lead to the mass destruction of human life.

Due to this issue (the importation of beef from countries who have had BSE) people are now coming out in their droves and saying how they are vehemently opposed to the importation of ANY food, from ANY COUNTRY who dose country not have to meet the same stringent health standards, the same checks and balances in place, that our food producers have to.

If the introduction of beef into Australia goes ahead and there are imports of beef from those overseas countries that don't have an equivalent traceability system to our Livestock Identification System, that don't have the equivalent health hygiene checks and balances in place as we dog, then they SHOULD NOT be allowed to bring their product into this country.

Thank you for the opportunity to put this submission forward.

Yours faithfully

Marshall Fittler