

I am writing in response to the inquiry into importation of beef from countries that have had BSE.

I am in total disagreement with any importations that will put the beef industry at risk.

The farming industry as a whole is struggling for existence with no help at all from the government, in fact it appears that the federal and the state governments go out of their way to hinder and penalise farmers for doing their jobs, which from observation and experience, we do remarkably well with very little return and no thanks.

We have done everything that has been asked of us, we implemented the NLIS with cost to our selves, we gave the MLA \$5 a head with cost to our selves, we wear the cost of keeping the ticks controlled and any other insect, virus or disease that comes up, we control again at a cost to our selves. But enough is enough.

We no longer have profitable businesses, but most of us still struggle on.

You have no right to even consider endangering the livelihoods of farmers and consumers with this ill thought out plan to bring meat into our country from BSE infected countries, or from any place that will put our industry at risk.

AQIS has, through allowing the equine influenza to come into Australia, shown that it is incapable of protecting Australia, and the government has shown that it does not want Australia protected.

Once a disease is in a country then it is very difficult to eradicate it.

The Americans have solved this problem by not looking for it. On the website I looked at, it actually says that they have 'drastically cut back on BSE testing'.

This presents big problems for us because if they aren't looking and we don't care then we will be extremely vulnerable to any and all diseases coming into Australia.

What advantage do WTO or Free trade agreements give Australian Farmers that have to compete with overseas subsidized farmers?

Mr Rudd, we must be vigilant in our border security and we must be vigilant with our health regulations. Do not allow this treacherous act to take place.

Darryl Smith  
Kyogle