

In response to the inquiry into the importation of beef into Australia from Countries that have had BSE-

I disagree with importing beef from these countries as we have enough meat here in Australia to meet all domestic needs and we export 60% of our cattle overseas.

This is a large and important industry in Australia and it should be protected from any threat of disease.

“AQIS officers are the ‘private eyes’ of the pest underworld, they’re adept at finding, investigating and tracking pests to their origin”(from their website) They obviously forgot to add that they are fallible, as seen with the 2007 outbreak of equine flu.

How can we trust these people when they make mistakes, the equine flu cost us \$ ½ billion which would be chicken feed compared to the cost to Australia if BSE or FMD got in. That is without adding the cost to our health system if nCJD or nvCJD was contracted here. It is too great a risk and one that farmers do not want to take.

I read that, processed meat would not require clearance as it held no risk, which seems strange when I also read that no one knows the origin of BSE and that there are so many things they don’t know about how it is spread. That in itself is a risk, if the science you are using is wrong then we are in deep trouble. We know that it can incubate for a long time and we also know that people are still being diagnosed now with nCJD and nvCJD in England this is a great risk not negligible like we are being told.

As a producer I believe I should have a say in whether or not it is advisable to relax the regulations on importation as I will be one of the many people who will be affected by this, economically, environmentally and physically.

I am totally opposed to this importation and the endangering of the livestock industry. I will be holding AQIS, the federal labor government, the importers and Prime minister Kevin Rudd accountable.

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