



HUNTER ANIMAL WATCH Inc.

Charity No. CFN15806

ABN 67 481 138 290

President : Pam Hopkins, 23 Nilands Lane, Woodberry, 2322 Tel: 02 4966 4344
Secretary: Olga Parkes, 106 Grandview Rd., New Lambton 2305 Tel: 02 4952 1358
Treasurer: Pat Hinton, 6 Sophia Jane Avenue, Woodberry 2322 Tel: 02 4966 4344

26th April, 2008

The Secretary,
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Animal-derived food products

I am writing to bring to your attention the concerns of Hunter Animal Watch about the lack of standards in food labelling. As an animal welfare organisation, and as consumers ourselves, we find the present situation frustrating.

We would like to be confident that when we buy a food product labelled "free range" it actually is, and that the standards applied for both animal welfare and food quality, are stringent. Other terms which are often used are "bred free range", "biodynamic", "organic", and so on.

Of major concern to us is the lack of national standards. We do not believe that this important issue can be left in the hands of state governments as consumers cannot rely that a term used in one state is backed by precisely the same standards in another. The same applies to animal welfare laws. To achieve reliable outcomes, national laws are necessary.

We ask that the Committee work to reform legislation and regulation in regard to food labelling, branding and marketing so that consumers are

confident that high standards back the products they purchase and that the highest animal welfare standards apply nationally.

We share the increasing consumer concern regarding food, and we would like to see environmental and ethical concerns being made a priority by the Federal Government..

On behalf of Hunter Animal Watch,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olga Parkes', written in a cursive style.

Olga Parkes
Hon. Secretary.