

Faxed to: 02 6277 5811
28 March 2008

Chairman
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Chairman

Inquiry into the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and Wheat Export Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008

I write to record my concern and disapproval of the government's proposal to repeal the Wheat Marketing Act 1989 (the "Act") and replace it with legislation that does not address the needs of the Australian wheat grower.

The government's failure to undertake a detailed economic and social impact study of the above Bills should be of concern to all Australians.

The government has failed to take into account the many industry surveys that have shown that the majority of wheat growers across Australia do not agree with the government's actions on this matter.

The Bill does not address issues that are fundamental to ensuring Australia has an economically sustainable wheat growing industry. The Bill will lead - to the value of the wheat industry falling dramatically with the loss of grower premiums for low moisture and low screening quality wheats being two examples; to Australia falling back into being a producer of only lower quality "fair average quality" wheats; to there being no transparency or accountability in the market; to market volatility far greater than ever seen before; to wheat growers having limited capacity to manage the significantly increased economic risks associated with the government's policy; to the reputation of the Australian wheat industry being put at risk by removing quality assurance over exports in containers and/or bags; to the loss of the buyer of last resort facility; to serious harvest cash flow difficulties; to individual growers having to fund stockpiled wheat from one year to the next, and to the Australian industry becoming controlled and manipulated by foreign interests.

With serious shortcomings in the Bill the government should commit to detailed and open consultation with the industry before proceeding further. The consultation needs are of such magnitude the government should announce that legislation will not be changed for the 2008/09 season with requests for consent to export wheat in bulk (i.e. export accreditation) dealt with by the Export Wheat Commission under the Wheat Marketing Act 1989.

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STEVE GRAHAM

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Yours faithfully

Name

..... MIGNON JONES

Faxed to: 02 6277 5811
28 March 2008

Chairman
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Chairman

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KEVIN FUCHSBICKLER

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ROSEMARY E BOWRING T/A ANNE RE BOWRING

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