



TASMANIAN FARMERS & GRAZIERS ASSOCIATION

Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliff,

RE: BIOSECURITY AND QUARANTINE ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the peak lobby group representing Tasmanian farmers. This is the TFGA submission to the inquiry.

Tasmania is an island state, as a result biosecurity is of paramount importance not just to agriculture but also many other parts of our environmental, social and economic fabric. With so much of our state's base being predicated on environmental assets, tourism, and agriculture, we need to be ever vigilant in maintaining our biosecurity and quarantine system. Even the federal Minister for Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Tony Burke, has recognised the biosecurity status of Tasmania as something that Tasmania has every right to want to be able to protect.

The TFGA is a member of the National Farmers Federation (NFF), the TFGA fully support the seven key strategic issues raised in the NFF submission to this inquiry.

Attached to this document is a series of recommendations developed by the Primary Industry Biosecurity Action Alliance (PIBAA), of which the TFGA is involved. The TFGA support the issues raised in this report.

Australia's favourable pest and disease status is a vital foundation for the farming sector – in both production and marketing terms – and must be maintained through a highly effective and efficient, science-based biosecurity and quarantine regime.

We would be happy to discuss this further with the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jan Davis
Chief Executive Officer
5 August 2010