



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

ACTING SECRETARY

Ref: EXEC2013-08699

Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Beverley

Thank you for to your invitation dated 22 November 2013 to provide a submission to the Senate Inquiry into Commonwealth Procurement Procedures. I submit the following on behalf of the Department of Agriculture:

1. The department supports the effectiveness of the current procurement policies and procedures. In particular, the policies which support broader access to larger markets than the Australian government and potentially benefit Australia's agriculture, fisheries, forestry and related industries under Australia's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).
2. In the context of the FTAs, the department supports:
 - a. the Commonwealth Procurement Rules (which incorporate Australia's international obligations and best practice);
 - b. the use of procurement connected policies as a means for government agencies to deliver specific strategic priorities through Commonwealth procurement, while also balancing Australia's international obligations and policies about non-discrimination;
 - c. the continued use of AusTender, for efficiency and to avoid duplication, as the Commonwealth's primary source of procurement and contract information including statistics on Australian content; and
 - d. the continued role of the Department of Finance in the development of Commonwealth procurement policies and procedures.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Glyde

18 December 2013