4 February 2013

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Inquiry into the progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance

Reference is made to the call for submissions for the abovementioned inquiry revolving around the increase to resistance of diseases to antibiotics.

It is felt that this inquiry has real relevance to the ornamental fish industry within Australia, as the majority of imported ornamental fish to Australia are dosed with Antibiotics to mask the signs of diseases, and viral infections that a batch of fish may have, after being bred in poor quality controlled conditions abroad, particularly South East Asian nations.

The ensuing result is that certain diseases that may have been previously treated with conventional antibiotics have become resistant to treatment and in some cases transferable between animals to humans. Concern is also raised regarding the relatively easy path these resistant diseases have into the bedrooms and kitchens Australian households through fish tanks etc.

Please find enclosed a copy of a submission made to the recent Quarantine and Biosecurity Review further detailing the context and the concerns of Pine Creek Fish Hatchery with regards to the importation of diseased ornamental fish.

Please also find below links to recent press releases regarding this issue:
http://oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2013/jan/ornamental-fish-industry-faces-problems-antibiotic-resistance
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fa084
http://healthfinder.gov/News/Article.aspx?id=672541
http://www.petnews.com.au/Newsletter-29th-January2012/Ornamental%20Fish%20Industry.pdf

I trust that this matter will be given consideration as part of the Injury, and that and that any further recommendations include a review of the biosecurity risk of the practice of importing ornamental fish treated with antibiotics.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Wood
Director