



ABN: 75 266 051 838

Telephone: (08) 8410 7233
Facsimile: (08) 8211 7303

Level 1 / 67 South Terrace,
Adelaide, SA 5000
Postal Address: PO Box 6014
Halifax Street, SA 5000

Email: info@saff.com.au
Website: www.saff.com.au

9 October 2012

Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the Committee's Inquiry into the proposed importation of potatoes from New Zealand.

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) is very concerned at the increasing importation of many fresh food products into this country. It is ironic that at the same time as the Federal Government is allowing more fresh produce to be imported into Australia, more investment is being put into improving Australia's quarantine and biosecurity systems.

There is no such thing as zero risk. When (not if) there is a pest or disease incursion in Australia due to importation of fresh food products, it will not be the importers who will be most affected but the producers of the same products in this country who will be impacted economically. They will be the ones who will have restrictions placed on their production and will have to pay for trying to eradicate or control the incoming pest or disease. At worst they could lose their farms and livelihoods.

In relation to potatoes from New Zealand, SAFF understands that it is almost a certainty that these potatoes will be infected with species of psyllids that are currently not present in Australia but we are not in a position to comment on what this would mean to Australia's potatoes.

Yours sincerely

Deane Crabb
POLICY MANAGER