

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport Reference Committee,
PO Box 6100, parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600
10/02/2014

I am a cattle producer in Central Queensland supplying cattle to Teys/Cargill meatworks in Biloela targeting MSA and offer the following observations.

The terms of reference are limiting in that a total review of MLA should be undertaken as producers I have spoken to have no confidence in the organisation and suggest it should be dissolved or replaced. In fact what other organisation has not been adapted after 19 years.

I question both the timing and sensitivity of the limited review while 70% of Queensland is in drought and producers are working seven days a week carting water, servicing licks and water and pulling mulga besides the tremendous personal and financial toll on families. What planet do you people live on, and how do you expect producers worn out mentally and physically to make submissions.

MLA is similar elections in Russia, no democracy in electing Directors, multiple votes for a few and no input into the amount of transaction of levy. Why is there no referendum of levy payers every triennium like woolgrowers based on one vote per producer.

MLA and it's predecessors have spent millions of dollars on Futuretech and Calm and where is the financial return to levy payers? Add to that the cost of MSA where MLA set objective standards and proceeoors set their own, in fact Teys only pay a premium 0-2 teeth up to boning group eight.

Grass fed producers should set their own levy democratically and control the projects that add value to their business. The acid test is has domestic consumption increased and have the returns to producers increased and the answer in no on both counts.

I hope the current levy review is a precursor to a full review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of the outdated and ineffective MLA.

G Schmidt