

**SENATE RURAL & REGIONAL AFFAIRS & TRANSPORT  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

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**Inquiry into the proposed importation of potatoes from New  
Zealand**

**Canberra, 24 October 2012**

<b>LODGED BY</b>	<b>TITLE/SUBJECT</b>	<b>PAGES</b>
Ms Robbie Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Potatoes South Australia	Correspondence to Potatoes South Australia from South East Local Government Association Inc., dated 23 October 2012.	2

# SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INC

Incorporated under the provisions of The Local Government Act

C/- PO Box 1445  
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Mount Gambier

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*Business Hours - 9.00 am to 5.00 pm - Monday to Friday*

23 October 2012

**President:** Ms Robbie Davis  
**Mayor Richard** Chief Executive Officer  
**Vickery** Potatoes SA  
GPO Box 1664  
**Executive Officer:** ADELAIDE  
**Rob Forgan** SA 5000

**Member Councils:** RE: Import of Potatoes and the Zebra Chip Disease Complex

**City of:** Dear Ms Davis,  
**Mount Gambier**

**Districts of:** On behalf of the undersigned South Australian Regional Local Government Associations we support  
**Grant** Potatoes SA endeavours to combat the risk to the Australian potato industry posed by the import of overseas  
**Kingston** potatoes.

**Naracoorte Lucindale** This issue has been drawn to the attention of our member Councils who have in turn highlighted their  
**Robe** concerns about the impact it is likely to have on their growers, the industry and their communities. While we  
**Tatiara** will seek and expect the support of the Local Government Association of SA on this matter we realise that a  
**Wattle Range** Senate Inquiry will be held in Canberra on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and this presents an immediate  
opportunity for Local Government to act in support of regional agribusiness and communities by adding our  
combined weight to your submission.

To our knowledge, South Australia is involved in all facets of potato production including fresh, washed  
potatoes, French fry, crisping and seed sectors and produces over 385,000 tonnes per year and is the  
nation's largest producer of fresh potatoes and a significant contributor to the processed market, employing  
over 2,000 people.

This issue is a serious concern to the Australian potato industry and to growers and others in the value chain  
in other areas in South Australia and interstate. We support the Murray and Mallee Local Government  
Association (MMLGA) bringing this issue to the attention of the South Australian Regional Organisation of  
Councils (SAROC) committee with the aim of enlisting the full support of the LGA SA to lobby appropriate  
Government Ministries.

Our Associations are fearful for the future livelihood of the South Australian potato industry with a recent  
Federal Government report suggesting reversing an import ban on NZ potatoes. This matter has been raised  
with the South Australian Parliament's Select Committee on Sustainable Farming Practices at their current  
circuit of regional hearings in October 2012.

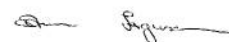
This letter acknowledges the significant consultation at an industry, community and scientific level that has contributed to the formal submission lodged by Potatoes SA. Our Local Government connections with our community members reinforce the deep concerns expressed in your submission.

If you have any questions in regard to matter, please do not hesitate to contact any of the under signed. .

Yours sincerely



*Richard Vickery*



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The Murray and Mallee  
Local Government Association

