

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

**Inquiry into industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed
cattle**

Public Hearing Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Albury

I refer to the Albury sittings where Mr Michelmore and Mr Wass stated that United Stockowners of Australia (USA) agreed with the continued paying of Grass-fed producers of the Transaction levee. That statement of USA needs to be clarified into context with our Submission (182) which I have copied below – USA continues to support the **Moving Forward Recommendations** of our **Submission** which state that the continuation of the Levee must firstly be approved by a national Plebiscite of all Levee Payers and we are confident that there is far less than 50% support for its continuation amongst producers nationally.

The **Moving Forward Recommendations** I refer to are on page 2 of our Submission in the attachment;

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Moving Forward Recommendations

1) Total Deregulation. That is the disbanding of Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC); repeal the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997 and removal of the compulsory cattle transaction levy immediately.

That the Commonwealth immediately legislate a stand-alone ‘Anti-Trust’ Act mirrored in every respect on the American ‘*Packers and Stockyard Act*’ [1]

Or

2) That taxation collection via the cattle transaction levy cease while the grass-fed sector **Producers** are consulted by and with democratic representation as follows:-

☐ Identify grass fed cattle producers

☐ Carry out a plebiscite to determine if identified grass fed cattle producers wish to pay a levy; **Yes** or **No**.

☐ Should grass fed producers vote to pay levies, that a democratic body be formed as formulated here with grass fed producer support. [2]

And

3) That a Commissioned Independent Inquiry of Audit be established to audit declarations, administration and allocation of “Voting Entitlements” in Meat & Livestock Australia Limited for the years from 2004 to the present date.

4) That a Commissioned Independent Inquiry of Audit be established to audit Expenditure by Meat & Livestock Australia Limited of Grass-fed Cattle levies is, and has been directly consistent with the Commonwealth Government’s “Levies Principles and Guidelines” and relevant Commonwealth Legislation authorising and guiding the expenditure of “Public Monies” for the years from 2004 to the present date.

Rod Dunbar
Director North
United Stockowners of Australia