

16th May 2014

Senate standing committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament house
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Tim Watling

Corrections to the Hansard Mrs Bloomfield – Katherine Meeting 7th May 2014
Industry structures and systems governing levies on grass-fed cattle

I would like to make a number of corrections to the information I provided when appearing at the hearing in Katherine.

1. Page 15.

Currently reads as

AA Company sold 290,000 head of cattle in the last financial year. Their votes this year are probably closer to nearly 700,000.

Correction.

My apologies I made a genuine mistake in remembering information and the correct figure for cattle sales for AA company ending 2012 financial year was approximately 250,000 head. Under the current scale system of voting allocations of MLA as per the chart I provided to the committee on the 7th May, 250,000 grass-fed would equate to about 654,000 votes. Not all the cattle AACo sell are grass-fed, they also have operations in grain-fed animals.

2. Page 15.

Currently reads as

They own nine. JBS plants have 11 plants and five feed lots.

Clarification.

If possible can the 'they own nine' be removed. I have no idea what I was referring to there and it is not a reference to anything that JBS own.

3. Page 15.

Currently reads as

only the 50 biggest are above that arrow.

Clarification

Only the 50 biggest MLA voters in 2008 were allocated above the 10,000 head of cattle transacted. All other voters were below 10,000 head transacted.

4. Page 16.

Currently reads as

They are not the right rates.

Correction

That is a reference to the types of animals that are not suited to the live export markets and would be better written as 'They are not the right types'

5. Page 17

I made a reference that voters did have an opportunity to change the levy but wasn't able to recall details of when that occurred.

Clarification.

Referece – MLA submission #154 to senate inquiry.

On page 24 of the submission the levy increase occurred from \$3.50 to \$500 in 2005. Page 25 – Section 3.2.3. In 2009 a vote was called for alteration of the levy, of the current 46,785 members at that time, 5085 cattle producers cast a vote in regards to lowering the levy. 72.5% supported retention of the \$5 at its current level. (75% voting consensus is required for a change – as only 27.5% lower it the levy was left at \$5)

6. Page 18

Currently reads as pick numbers and Pick

Clarification

The acronym should be PIC – Property identification code.

<http://www.nt.gov.au.PIC>

What is a PIC?

A Property Identification Code or PIC is an eight character code allocated by Primary Industry, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries (DPIF) or equivalent authority in other states/territories to identify a property where livestock is kept.

In the Northern Territory PICs begin with the letter T, for Territory, followed by 3 more letters, followed by 4 numerals. Eg TCDG0066

The PIC is permanently registered to a specific parcel of land as described by the Lands Title Office. Upon sale of the property the PIC remains with the property, it cannot be transferred to another property.

Who should have a PIC?

It is a mandatory requirement for owners of an identifiable property with livestock to have a PIC registered for that property.

Livestock Regulations Section 32(1) states:

The owner of an identifiable property must have a PIC registered for the property.

An identifiable property is a property that keeps any of the following livestock:

Alpacas, buffalo, camels, cattle, deer, goats, horses (incl mules & donkeys), llamas, pigs, poultry, pigeons, sheep.

Regardless of the size of the house block or rural block of land or property or the number of livestock or even if they are pets, if livestock is being kept then a PIC is required.

Thank-you

Jo-Anne Bloomfield.