

Australian Chicken Growers' Council Limited

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**Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and
Regional Affairs and Transport**

On the

Commonwealth Biosecurity Bill 2014

Australian Chicken Growers Council (ACGC) represents the interests of contract poultry meat growers nationally through six state organisations.

These are:

- New South Wales Farmers Association Poultry Meat Group
- Queensland Chicken Growers Association,
- South Australian Meat Chicken Farmers
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association Chicken Meat Group,
- Victorian Farmers Federation Chicken Meat Group,
- West Australian Broiler Growers Association.

The chicken meat industry is vertically integrated with the majority of chicken grown out on farms contracted to a specific processor. As a highly efficient and growing industry within the rural sector, it is important that the poultry meat industry's internationally renowned biosecurity status and market access opportunities are protected

The ACGC is a member of the Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF) which has also made a submission in their role representing processors and growers. ACGC fully supports this submission.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the development of the nation's Biosecurity Legislation the poultry meat industry has a vested interest in ensuring that Australia biosecurity regulation that is effective as well as user-friendly as we work with the legislation on a regular basis. On previous occasions the ACGC have made extensive comment on the biosecurity risks surrounding the importation of products and the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) process itself. The ACGC believes that it is imperative that the process whereby the import of products with disease potential are assessed is stringent but transparent and includes effective use of industry knowledge.

While as an organisation the ACGC has been heavily involved in the stakeholder consultation process during the development of the Bill, we have questions with regard to the overall regulatory package that will be the Commonwealth biosecurity legislation. The primary

legislation that has been presented to stakeholders for comment and consultation while comprehensive lacks the supporting regulation. The absence of this regulation, for example when an IRA would be undertaken, makes it difficult for stakeholders to provide in-depth comments that address how the legislation will operate as a whole. It is our recommendation that government provides access to all the regulations accompanying the legislation to ensure that they will meet the expectations of industry and prevent the formulation of legislation that is burdensome to industry.

The ACGC looks forward to being further involved in the development of the Bill. If you would like to discuss this submission further please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Gary Sansom

Executive Officer ACGC