

While we have only recently become aware of this issue we would like to be able to have input on behalf of Slow Food Melbourne into the development of a ministerial paper on the matter. I would request the opportunity to make comment on this issue. We are involved with food distribution through our Farmers Market held monthly in Abbotsford & are very concerned with the welfare of Australian producers. Stricter labeling laws are vital to the future development of a viable local food industry and we would applaud such legislation as is suggested where consumers are able to be very clear on what content of their food purchases are Australian and what is imported (and from where). Where food has travelled from also has implications for the environment & ultimately global warming; an issue consumers can make a positive impact upon when they are armed with the knowledge to do so. Better labeling laws would facilitate this.

If there is an opportunity to have further input or provide any further information we have broad networks of well informed industry people, academics & producers who would welcome the opportunity to comment. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Alison Peake
President Slow Food Melbourne