



23 March 2015

Senator Bridget McKenzie

279 Hargreaves St., Bendigo, Vic 3550

RE: SENATE BEEF PROCESSOR ENQUIRY

Dear Senator McKenzie,

I would like to relate to you my recent experience as a Beef/sheep supplier. I have been a supplier to Woolworths for over 20 years.

In Mid December 2014 I had a consignment of vealer calves processed at TFI (THOMAS Foods Int.), for Woolworths.

On receiving the feedback sheets from Woolworths, I found that I had some very high fat scores - over 30mm, which could not be correct in 9 month old calves.

I contacted my stock agent who supplied me with fat scores from other local suppliers who consigned that week - fat scores of up to 45mm. - not believable.

I then contacted Aus-Meat (Matt Cooper) - supplied them with Woolworth feedback sheets - TFI, denied access to my Plant Kill Sheets.

Aus-meat conducted an unannounced Audit of TFI on 23/01/15; - a problem was identified in their fat scoring - I have Audit report. Both TFI and Woolworths refused to refund the fat penalties we received.

On the 26/02/15, I met with the Woolworths buyer who told me that if I continued to seek compensation that "TFI senior management were angry and "They will do you great harm," and that they could destroy my business.

He also said that Woolworths Senior Management would have to reconsider continuing doing business with us.

As there are only two major processors in South Aust - TFI + Teys, I took the deal offered - No fat penalties next two years, for not continuing to seek reimbursement, - I had no choice.

How many other suppliers suffered incorrect fat penalties during the miss-use of the fat testing equipment? - This is why processors cannot be Trusted.

yours Sincerely,

Tom Hunt.