

The Chair,

Senate Rural Affairs and Transport Reference Committee,

Re: Call for submission on the National Interest Test as applied to purchases of Australian agricultural Land

Sir/Madam

I respectfully submit that the major focus on any assessment of the National Interest of purchase of Australian agricultural land by any foreign group or individual should:

A Assess the impact of the price of produce produced by that particular agricultural parcel of land on the domestic market if:

- (i) the totality, or of a significant percentage, of its production is exported to the country of origin of the foreign investor and
- (ii) access, by the domestic market, to that produce is restricted in any manner.

B Price impact on projected falls in agricultural productivity.

C Assess the impact on local employment by any change of ownership especially in the case where foreign workers may be brought into the country under any temporary worker migration scheme.

D Assess the impact on the environment of any changes in land usage management that may be introduced.

E Assess the impact on the domestic economy if the raw produce is exported and then processed in terms of value adding for re-export to the Australian domestic consumer market.

F Its impact on the economic viability of the domestic value adding processes.

G Impact of any and all changes in land usage i.e., changes from agriculture to mining.

H Impact on commonwealth revenue.

I Assess the ability for Australian investors to access the third party countries land.

J The degree by which any foreign Government has a controlling interest over the potential investor and the subsequent degree by which it may be able to control the ultimate land usage.

K Both long and short term impacts on food security.

L Impact on agricultural produce export earnings in the context of B – D – G and J above.

Yours Faithfully,

Robert Maher