



ABN: 37 113 160 517

Superbee Honey Factory

Cnr Newell Hwy & Landrace St
Forbes NSW 2871 Australia
P: +61 2 6851 1155
F: +61 2 6851 1177
Superbee@superbee.com.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

28/01/2014

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE : Senate Enquiry into the future of Beekeeping and pollination service industries in Australia

Recommendation 1. – *Parliament push for a free trade agreement to be in place and include honey for exporting to China.*

Demand for high quality honey for export into China is increasing; however Australia faces great hurdles without a free trade agreement in place.

New Zealand has the same reputation as Australia for high quality products and is far ahead of the league. Up until recent times New Zealand has had not only a huge advantage with their currency, they also have a free trade agreement in place with China making imports a lot cheaper and in turn becoming tough competition for Australian exporters as they do not come up against the high duty/taxes Australia faces for exports into China.

Superbee believes the Australian Honey Industries future is in export, as world demand for honey increases, without a free trade agreement this makes it a difficult feat.

Recommendation 2 - *Parliament consider a duty/tax on the importation of honey from China.*

Australia currently pays 17% duty on exports to China and must meet strict standards for this honey to be available for export in the first place, however China can send into Australia whatever honey they like applicable to minimal inspection and little to no duty/tax. This is extremely detrimental to the Australian Honey industry. The honey industry faces enough domestic challenges without having to face competition from inferior and cheap imports.

New Zealand do not allow any honey into their country, supporting their own industry and biosecurity. Why Australia cannot do the same baffles me.

Recommendation 3 – *Parliament looks into why the honey industry was left out of the free trade agreement recently put in place with Korea.*

Why this was left out is still yet to be advised, whether it was an oversight or on purpose makes no difference, the honey industry is more often than not left out of important decisions and simply “forgotten” about. We may be a small industry however we are certainly an active and extremely important industry in agriculture. Being a small industry on occasion we do rely on government to assist. We have been asking for free trade agreements to be put in place for many years and when progress is finally made we are left out. We propose that action is taken to rectify this as a matter of priority.

Kind Regards,

Karla Hudson
General Manager
Superbee Honey Factory